



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of Judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi  
c/o H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi  
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr Raisi,

I'm writing to you regarding **Behnam Mahjoubi**, from the Gonabadi Dervish religious minority, Iran's largest Sufi order, who has been held in Evin prison since 20 June 2020.

Behnam Mahjoubi was arrested in April 2018 in connection with peaceful protests that took place in February 2018 by Gonabadi Dervishes in Tehran and were violently quashed by security forces and resulted in the arrest of hundreds of protesters. Following his arrest and an unfair trial before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on 9 August 2019, which used his forced "confessions" as admissible evidence, he was convicted of "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security" and sentenced to two years in prison and a two-year ban on involvement in social and political groups.

Behnam Mahjoubi suffers from a serious panic disorder for which he needs daily medication and has been assessed as being unable to withstand imprisonment. In September 2020, the prison clinic's doctor pressured him to take sleeping tablets apparently to control his panic disorder, after which he suffered seizures and partial paralysis. Since then, his health has seriously declined and he is unable to walk without help. He has gone on several hunger strikes to protest his imprisonment, treatment in detention, denial of access to specialist medical care outside prison for his seizures and paralysis and the periodic withholding of medication.

I urge you to release Behnam Mahjoubi immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for peacefully exercising his rights. Pending his release, ensure that he is given the specialized medical care he needs, in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent, and that he is protected from further torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_