



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

Head of Judiciary, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje  
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 Mohseni-Eje,

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing torture and prolonged solitary confinement of **Vahid Afkari** and **Habib Afkari**, brothers of the wrestler Navid Afkari who was secretly executed in September 2020 after a murder confession obtained from him under torture.

Vahid and Habib Afkari were arrested in 2018 in the aftermath of participating in Shiraz protests in Sh, which, according to them and their lawyers, was peaceful. The brothers claimed their innocence in court and in written complaints and said they had been tortured to “confess”. Despite this and the lack of credible evidence, Vahid Afkari was sentenced to 33 years and nine months imprisonment and 74 lashes and Habib Afkari to 15 years and eight months imprisonment and 74 lashes in multiple grossly unfair trials.

In September 2020, they were beaten and since then have been held in windowless solitary confinement cells. They are denied access to meaningful contact with other prisoners, fresh air, telephone calls, and face-to-face family visits. They have also been deliberately denied adequate health care, including for torture-related injuries. Both suffer from chronic spine pain; Habib Afkari also suffers from toothaches and needs specialized dental care. According to the independent media, the torture and other intimidation tactics imposed on the brothers have been so intense that Vahid Afkari has reportedly attempted suicide twice.

I urge you to immediately release Vahid and Habib Afkari as they are arbitrarily detained, quash their unjust convictions and sentences and drop all charges related to their peaceful participation in protests. Please ensure that they have access to adequate health care and family visits pending their release. If charged with internationally recognizable criminal offences, retrial proceedings must meet international standards of fair trial and exclude coerced confessions. Please also ensure that their allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are investigated.

Yours sincerely,

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