

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Date: _____

Head of Judiciary, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje
c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Honorable Justice Mohseni-Eje'i,

I am an activist with Amnesty International, writing to express my concern over the death sentences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex (LGBTQI+) rights defender **ZAHRA "Sareh" SEDIGHI-HAMADANI** and **ELHAM CHOUBDAR**.

The forcible disappearances of these young women, the degrading way they have been treated while in custody, the erroneous charges brought against them and the sham of a trial they have faced, are reprehensible acts that no human should face.

Freedom of expression and religion are guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the charges against Zahra pertaining to her association with foreign press through her interview with the BBC, religious practices, human rights work, and activities online must be dropped.

Targeting Elham for her association with Zahra and social media posts is unconscionable.

None of these could possibly justify bringing the end to someone's life. Zahra has dedicated herself to bettering the lives of members of her community and her country.

Both of these young women have been unfairly targeted as a result of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and their work for human rights in Iran. I ask you to drop these egregious charges and release both Zahra and Elham.

Same sex acts between consenting adults, openly expressing one's gender identity must not be penalized. Moreover, institutions put in place to safe guard the rights of the vulnerable members of the LGBTQI+ population of Iran. I urge you to drop any criminal charges in all such cases.

Respectfully,

Address: _____

Send by: 10 November 2022