



Date: _____

H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Ravanchi,

I am writing to you concerning **Zeynab Jalalian**, a member of Iran’s Kurdish minority who has been imprisoned for 15 years, serving a life sentence following a grossly unfair trial in December 2008. She is deliberately kept in a prison very far away from her family. She was arrested as a result of her work to empower Iran’s ethnic minority Kurds, particularly women; for supporting the Kurdish struggle for self-determination; and for her association with the political wing of the Kurdish opposition group Party for Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), which also has an armed wing.

After a trial that lasted only a few minutes and failed to meet international standards, Zeynab Jalalian received a death sentence, which later was replaced with a life sentence. Before the trial, she was held for eight months with no access to a lawyer, and she claims that she was physically tortured and threatened with rape.

Zeynab Jalalian has been suffering from heart, intestinal, and kidney problems as well as an oral thrush condition. She is also at risk of losing her eyesight due to a condition for which she has been denied surgery. She is being deliberately prevented from receiving specialized medical care despite her deteriorating health, including a lung condition and respiratory problems as a result of contracting Covid-19 at least twice. Authorities have conditioned access to proper medical care and transfer back to a prison closer to her family on her making a filmed “confession” and on agreeing to work with the Ministry of Intelligence.

I urge you to ensure that Zeynab Jalalian is immediately provided with specialized care for her health conditions in an appropriate medical facility outside prison. I call on you to order a prompt, independent, effective, and impartial investigation into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, bringing to justice anyone found responsible in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty. It is essential to protect her and implement the recommendation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of April 2016, which calls for Zeynab Jalalian to be released immediately and accords her an enforceable right to compensation.

Yours sincerely,

Address: _____