

Your Excellency;

I am writing this to express my grave concern on elderly prisoner of conscience Hossein Rafiee who had his six-year prison term and two-year ban on membership of political groups and engagement in online activities upheld by Branch 54 of the Court of Appeal in Tehran on 22 February.

He is a prisoner of conscience and therefore I am calling on the Iranian authorities to release Hossein Rafiee immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association.

I am urging them to ensure he receives any medical attention he may require, expressing concern that the extremely poor conditions in Section 8 of Evin Prison amount to ill-treatment, and reminding them that prisoners must be held in adequate conditions, in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

I am also reminding them that Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Sincerely yours,