

Your Excellency;

I am writing to express my grave concern on Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi who has had five years of his six-year sentence suspended by the appeal court, which upheld the flogging sentence of 223 lashes. If jailed to serve the one-year prison term, imposed for his peaceful activities, he will be a prisoner of conscience.

Therefore I storngly urge the Iranian authorities to quash Keywan Karimi's conviciton and sentence for charges that arise from his peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association.

I need to remind them that Articles 17, 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 privacy, and freedom of expression and association.

I am also expressing concern that Revolutionary Court hearings in Iran are seriously flawed and do not meet international fair trial standards, and that flogging sentences violate the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under international law.

Sincerely yours,