

Prosecutor General of Tehran Ali Alghasi Mehr

Office of the Prosecutor

Corner (Nabsh-e) of 15 Khordad Square

Tehran, Iran

Dear Mr Alghasi Mehr,

Iranian journalists **Amir Amirgholi, Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar** have been detained in Tehran's Evin prison since January 2019, with no access to their lawyer. They are facing trial on spurious national security charges brought solely in connection with their reporting on the protests of workers at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province over grievances concerning unpaid wages and poor conditions. The journalists are all staff members of Gam, an online magazine, which reports on social justice issues, including labour rights. Their prosecution forms part of a wider crackdown on labour rights activists and journalists covering the protests at Haft Tappeh company in late 2018.

Sanaz Alahyari and Amir Amirgholi are being denied access to adequate medical care. Sanaz Alahyari has been suffering from recurrent stomach pains, weight loss and severe shaking in her hands and legs for at least two months, and urgently requires medical treatment. Amir Amirgholi suffers from diabetes and has not been given the device he needs for the daily monitoring of his blood sugar levels.

The journalists were arrested by ministry of intelligence officials in January 2019 and transferred to section 209 of Evin prison where they were held in prolonged solitary confinement and interrogated without a lawyer present. On 29 April 2019, they were brought before the prosecutor's office in Evin prison and informed of their charges, which include "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security", "spreading propaganda against the system", "spreading lies" and "membership of a group formed with the purpose of disrupting national security". They are currently awaiting trial before branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran.

I urge you to release Amir Amirgholi, Sanaz Alahyari, and Amirhossein Mohammadifar immediately and unconditionally and drop the charges brought against them and all other labour rights activists targeted in connection with the protests at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province. Pending their release, please ensure that they can receive regular visits from their lawyers and families, as well as the urgent medical care they need.

Yours sincerely,