

**Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei**  
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Hossein Shahbazi, aged 20, is at risk of imminent execution in Adelabad prison in Shiraz, Fars province, after being sentenced to death for a crime that took place when he was 17 years old. His execution was scheduled for 25 December 2021 in violation of Iran's obligations under international law not to use the death penalty against people who were under 18 at the time of the crime and despite a pending request for retrial. It was postponed following international actions, but may be carried out at any time. His execution had previously been scheduled on three other occasions for 1 March 2021, 28 June 2021 and 25 July 2021 and postponed each time following international pressure. Branch 3 of Criminal Court One of Fars province convicted Hossein Shahbazi of murder and sentenced him to death on 13 January 2020 following a grossly unfair trial. He was convicted, in part, on "confessions" that he said were obtained through torture at a detention centre run by the Investigation Unit of Iran's police (Agahi). The court noted in its verdict that he was under 18 at the time of the crime, but stated that the Legal Medicine Organization of Iran, a state forensic institute, had found he had attained "mental growth and maturity" at the time of the crime, and therefore merited the death penalty under Article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code. In June 2020, the Supreme Court upheld the verdict. Hossein Shahbazi's request for retrial, filed 20 June 2021, remains pending before the Supreme Court.

On 24 November 2021, Arman Abdolali, aged 25, was executed in Raja'i Shahr prison, Alborz province, for a crime that took place when he was a child in a grave violation of international law. Prior to his execution, the Iranian authorities postponed his scheduled execution five times between 13 October and 21 November 2021. Each time, he was transferred to solitary confinement and then returned to the general ward. Given that these transfers, which are repeated acts of cruelty, inflicted intensive anxiety and fear amounting to severe mental suffering on Arman Abdolali, and that they were intentional and part of the process of his punishment, Amnesty International believes that in his final weeks Arman Abdolali was subjected to torture under international law. At the time of his execution, Arman Abolali's request for retrial to the Supreme Court, filed 17 October 2021, remained pending.

**I ask you to immediately halt the execution of Hossein Shahbazi. I call on you to quash both his conviction and sentence and grant him a fair retrial in full compliance with international law and the principles of child justice, excluding coerced "confessions", and without resorting to the death penalty. I also urge you to take immediate steps to completely abolish the use of the death penalty against child offenders, in line with Iran's obligations under international law, pending the full abolition of the death penalty and investigate the circumstances around Arman Abolali's torture prior to his execution with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.**

Yours sincerely