

**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,

Authorities are denying arbitrarily detained Iranian Kurdish woman **So'ada Khadirzadeh**, 32, postnatal and post-surgical care, as well as treatment for her serious kidney and heart conditions, and lower back pain in Urumieh prison, West Azerbaijan province. Throughout her pregnancy and while Covid-19 was rampant in prisons in Iran, prosecution authorities and Ministry of Intelligence agents repeatedly denied her access to the specialized health care she required. According to an informed source, authorities ignored medical advice for her to be under close medical observation during her last month of pregnancy. On 20 June 2022, So'ada Khadirzadeh was transferred from Urumieh prison to hospital, where Ministry of Intelligence agents kept her hands and feet shackled to the bed while she was in active labour, in violation to the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. The shackles were removed after medical staff protested. Her child was born following a caesarean operation, but authorities transferred her and her newborn back to Urumieh prison on the same day, against medical advice.

In a leaked audio message recorded inside prison in late April 2022, So'ada Khadirzadeh stated that following her 14 October 2021 arbitrary arrest by Ministry of Intelligence agents in Piranshahr, West Azerbaijan province, she was held for 25 days in a Ministry of Intelligence detention centre. There, agents subjected her to intense interrogations, which included verbal abuse of a sexual nature, to compel her to "confess" to helping her husband, who left Iran a day prior to her arrest and who they said was wanted. She was then transferred to Urumieh prison, where she has been denied access to a lawyer. She was held without charge until prosecution officials indicted her around March 2022 for "membership of a group with the purpose of disrupting national security" in apparent reference to the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and being accessory to murder, all of which So'ada Khadirzadeh denies. She was arrested in the days after the reported killing of a man in Piranshahr identified by human rights activists abroad as a Ministry of Intelligence agent. A first court hearing before a criminal court is scheduled for 24 August 2022.

**I urge you to release So'ada Khadirzadeh, whose detention is arbitrary on the basis of the non-observance of international norms relating to the right to a fair trial and as it stems from her family affiliation, and who as a nursing mother with pre-existing health conditions is at heightened risk of severe illness and health complications. Pending her release, I urge you to immediately provide her and her newborn with the medical care they require, including at facility outside of prison, as well as access to her lawyer and visits with her family. I also urge you to ensure that mother and newborn are provided with nutritious food and formula as well as a healthy environment.**

Yours sincerely,