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**URGENT - BY EMAIL**

Copies:

Javaid Rehman, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Morris Tidball-Binz, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions  
Josep Borrell, EU High Representative/Vice-President  
Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, United States

19 July 2023

Dear High Commissioner,

We request your urgent public intervention to save the life of Iranian political prisoner Mohammad Javad Vafa'i Thani.

According to information received from Vakil-Abad Prison in the city of Mashhad, earlier this morning a prison judge went to the political prisoners' ward, where he informed Vafa'i Thani that his execution verdict had been finalised.

Vafa'i Thani was then summoned and taken by a prison guard to an unknown location. There is no further information about his current whereabouts.

Vafa'i Thani, 27, is a local boxing champion in Mashhad and a supporter of the main opposition group People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI or MEK).

He was arrested in March 2020 (Persian calendar month of Esfand 1398) for taking part in the November 2019 anti-government protests. He was tortured for several months and eventually handed down an execution sentence for "efsad-fil-arz" ("corruption on Earth") by Branch Four of the Mashhad Revolutionary Court.

In recent months, the Iranian authorities have executed at least seven other protesters on similar bogus charges with total impunity. These political executions are a callous attempt by the authorities to frighten and silence an increasingly restive population no longer willing to accept their corrupt and oppressive rule.

We ask that you make an urgent public call for the Iranian authorities to halt Vafa'i Thani's imminent execution sentence.

Sincerely,

SIGNED:

## **Individual co-signatories:**

### **Amb. Juan Esteban Aguirre Martinez** – (Paraguay)

Foreign Minister of Paraguay (2000-2001); former Ambassador of Paraguay to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Vice President of the UN Human Rights Council (2015)

### **Hiljmnijeta Apuk** – (Kosovo)

Winner, United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for 2013; Director, Little People of Kosova; Member, Ad Hoc Committee of the UN General Assembly on drafting of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### **Dr. Paulo Ilich Bacca** – Colombia

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### **Dr. Maude Barlow** – (Canada)

Former Senior Advisor on Water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly; Former Chairperson of the Council of Canadians

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President of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities (1989-1995); Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union (2012-2018); Member of the Portuguese Government (1980-1983); Professor of EU Law; Attorney at law, founder and managing partner of Cruz Vilaça Advogados

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International Criminal Court, 2020

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Chair Uyghur Tribunal; Chair China Tribunal; Lead prosecutor at the trial of Slobodan Milošević in The Hague; prosecuted the case of Bosnian Croat Dario Kordić at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), successfully prosecuted Goran Jelisić at the ICTY

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**The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention** – (United States)

**CIVICUS** – (South Africa)

**German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (GCADP)** – (Germany)

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**Women's Network for Change (WNC)** – (France)

**World Without Genocide** – (United States)

**Les Femmes, La Force du Changement** – (France)

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**Greater Caribbean for Life** – (Puerto Rico)

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