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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

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 25th 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 a retrial. The execution was postponed following international actions (having already been postponed three times before) but may be carried out at any time.

Hossein Shahbazi was convicted of murder and sentenced to death on 13th 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 that he was under 18 at the time of the crime but had attained 'mental growth and maturity' at the time of the crime and therefore merited the death penalty. In June 2020 the Supreme Court upheld the verdict and **Hossein Shahbazi's** request for a retrial, filed on 20th June 2021, remains pending before the Supreme Court.

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.

Yours sincerely