



***Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran
Amis Canadiens d'un Iran Démocratique***

Hon. Volker Turk
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

July 19, 2023

Via: Email (registry@ohchr.org)

Dear High Commissioner:

Re: Execution order of 27-year-old boxer, Mohammad Javad Vafai, by the Iranian regime

It is with great urgency that we write to you to urge you to use your good offices to stop the imminent execution of Mohammad Javad Vafai, a 27-year-old boxing champion in the North Eastern city of Mash'had. The execution binge by the Iranian rulers must be stopped. According to information received, more than 400 people have been executed since the beginning of the year with an accelerating pace in recent weeks, in an apparent bid to prevent further uprisings as the anniversary of September 2022 uprising swept the country following the brutal death of Mahsa Amini while in custody by the morality police.

What worries us most is the similarity of this case and that of the slain Iranian athlete, Navid Afkari, a renowned Iranian wrestling champion who was executed with the same bogus charge of "corruption on earth".

We appeal to you to use every tool at your disposal to pressure the regime in Iran to stop this execution and to put an end to the cycle of violence and executions. The history shows that only a strong reaction may force them to change course.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Hon. Judy Sgro, MP

CC:

Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Global Affairs of Canada