



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA
ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HOPE FOR HUMANITY.

Snohomish Chapter 492
5518 168th Pl SW
Lynnwood, WA 98037
USA

September 19, 2017

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, Head of the Judiciary
c/o Public Relations Office Number 4
2 Azizi Street intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you with extreme concern for Mohammad Ali Taheri, a spiritual teacher who has been in solitary confinement for 6 years and in August 2017 was sentenced to death “for spreading corruption on earth.” Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, convicted for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of belief, expression and association.

I urge you to overturn his conviction and death sentence and release him immediately and unconditionally. He was acquitted of these same crimes by your Supreme Court in December 2015, and it’s concerning that, in violation of the legal prohibition of double jeopardy, he was tried three times for the same peaceful activities.

As you are probably aware, under international human rights law, the death penalty may only be used for “the most serious crimes”, which international bodies have interpreted as being limited to crimes involving intentional killings. The charges brought against Mohammad Ali Taheri do not meet this threshold.

Furthermore, I respectfully urge you to order an independent and impartial investigation into his prolonged solitary confinement, which violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, and bring those responsible to justice. Solitary confinement beyond 15 days is considered torture under international law.

Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to Mohammad Ali Taheri’s critical situation.

Sincerely,

Cc: H.E. Gholamali Khoshroo
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

AI is an independent movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, respect for the human rights of all individuals, and for an end to torture and execution. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world.