



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

For immediate release: February 15, 2023

Joint statement from

George Chahal, MP Calgary Skyview

Terry Duguid, MP Winnipeg South

Brendan Hanley, MP Yukon

Kevin Lamoureux, MP Winnipeg North

Michael McLeod, MP Northwest Territories

Hon. Dan Vandal, MP Saint Boniface – Saint Vital

We, as individual Members of Parliament from the Prairies and North region of Canada, hereby undertake the political sponsorship of a list of individuals who are currently under threat by the government of Iran. Community members have called on our commitment to help prevent the executions of those condemned to death, or their ongoing torture and imprisonment by the Iranian regime.

We know that endorsements by elected officials in Europe have already brought the plight of detainees to the forefront and have declared to the regime that they are being watched – that there are advocates keeping track of the lives and well-being of many victims of the violent crackdowns imposed by the ruling regime.

As many of you are acutely aware, the Iranian regime's brutality against its own citizens – in particular women and girls – is unrelenting, and the situation is worsening. Tens of thousands of Iran's own citizens are imprisoned for protesting the regime's violence and egregious human rights violations. Many hundreds have been killed, including numerous children.

We support the Iranian people to live their lives free from persecution. We hear their powerful voices, and we will continue to amplify them wherever we can. That is why we are releasing this statement today.

We voice together that we are appalled by Iran's wrongful imprisonment and execution of protesters. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances for all people, everywhere. On December 16, Canada introduced a resolution to reaffirm our commitment to human rights for the people of Iran and condemn the application of the death penalty, a resolution that the UN General Assembly adopted.

We call on Iran to immediately establish a moratorium to halt the executions and to end this brutal and inhumane punishment.

As individual Canadian Members of Parliament, we commit to speaking the names of these detainees, to remind the Iranian government that we are watching, and that we condemn Iran's ongoing human rights violations and threats to individual freedom as well as regional peace and security.

Through research via organizations tasked with monitoring human rights violations and the Iranian regime, we have chosen to sponsor a number of individuals who are currently at risk of execution, or who are unjustly imprisoned.

These individuals, named below, are valued and are in our thoughts as they suffer at the hands of this brutal regime. We will continue to remind those in power that they must not ignore universal human rights, or international laws, and that individual freedoms must be assured for every person.

We remind the Iranian regime that we will not lend credence to sham trials, to invented charges and to a lack of legal representation for these individuals and the many others presently imprisoned by their own government.

We ask that Canadians stand strong and united in our support of international conventions on human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls, and rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

In this resolve, we endorse the following detainees:

- George Chahal endorses **Milad Armoun** who was arrested on December 3, 2022 for participating in nationwide protests. Milad works in a clothing boutique store has played competitive sports for most of his life.
- Terry Duguid endorses **Saeed Shirzad** who was arrested on November 2, 2022, for political activism in Tehran. He had previously been arrested for his human rights activism in 2012, and then again in 2014

- Brendan Hanley endorses **Mohammad Shahverdi** who is a 5th year medical student, arrested on November 18, 2022 for unknown charges. He is currently under threat of execution by the IRGC.
- Kevin Lamoureux endorses **Monireh Montazeri** who was kidnapped by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in September 2022, and is currently in jail without formal charges. She is a social media influencer, photographer, and artist.
- Michael McLeod endorses father and son **Majid Khoshmanzar** and **Amir Khoshmanzar** who were both arrested during a commemoration ceremony for Mahsa Ahmini in October 2022.
- Dan Vandal endorses **Javad Rouhi** who was arrested on September 22, 2022 for participating in protests. He has been sentenced to death and has been facing extreme torture techniques while in prison.

Signed,

George Chahal

Terry Duquid

Brendan Hanley

Kevin Lamoureux

Michael McLeod

Dan Vandal