



The KMMK-G' s condemns unfair and unlawful sentencing of Saman Yasin to “*moharebeh*” and calls on the United Nations to take urgent action to stop his execution

To the Honorable Dr. Javaid Rehman, the UN Special Rapporteur for Iran,
To the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,

We are writing to raise our deep concerns about the fate of Saman Yasin Seyedi a young Kurdish Yarasani faith rapper and musician, aged 27, from Kermanshah (Kermashan in Kurdish), who was arrested and held in Tehran’s notorious Evin Prison on 2nd of October 2022 in relations to nationwide protests.

On 29th October 2022, following a 11 minutes trial conducted by disreputable juge Salavati in charge of Tehran’s Islaic Revolutionary Court (branch 15), Saman Yasin was charged with “*moharebeh*” or "waging war against God," in a hazily-defined offenses which carry the death penalty.

His "crime" is his participations in the current protests and his critical music. The family has hired a lawyer for his case, but the lawyer has not yet been able to see Saman with his case and they weren’t allowed to access the trial, according to his family.

In a video released of the trial by Iranian national tv, the infamous judge Salavati who has already sentenced over 300 Kurdish prisoners to the death penalty in the past decades, has accused Saman Yasin of “detaining a pistol during a protest” and “assembly and collusion against national security””. Saman Yasin refused all these accusations. Saman appeared weak, lost weight and undergone physical and mental torture according to a close member of his family.

Saman Yasin is a socio-political critical singer and rapper. He raps about inequality, oppression and unemployment and denounces the regimes repression of the protestors. Few other rappers like Tomaj Salehi (Persian) were also arrested.

We strongly believe that charging of Saman Yasin to the crime of “*moharebeh*” is related to his songs and to his ethno-religious backgrounds, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHu3N1Q9CJ8>). His Kurdish ethnicity and Yarasani faith, singing both in Kurdish and Farsi, are reasons for the government to sentence him to the death penalty and make his case an example for all other rappers and musicians in the country.

Since the beginning of the protests on 16th September 2022, dozens of Kurdish singers including Mr. Hossein Safamanesh and Aziz Waissi were detained for their public support and songs and video clips for the protestors.



The death penalty of Saman Yasin was pronounced in a moment where members of Iran's parliament called and voted in favor of introducing the death penalty for protestors and a dozen of mostly Baluchi and Kurdish were sentenced to "moharebeh" and are at risk of the capital punishment.

Given the Iranian judiciary, parliament and public calls and intimidations from IRCG commanders, we are extremely concerned about the fate of Saman Yasin and he is at imminent risk.

We call on the UNSR for Iran, the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other Independent Experts and Stakeholders to condemn the unlawful detention of Saman Yasin and to urge Iranian authorities to release Saman Yasin and hundreds other protestors in prisons.

Geneva, 12th November 2022

Kurdistan Human Rights Association - Geneva (KMMK-G)

www.kmmk-ge.org

Taimoor.aliassi@gmail.com

The Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva (KMMK-G) aims to promote democracy, respect for human rights and social development in and beyond Kurdistan of Iran.

To that end, the Association commits itself to fight against any form of discrimination towards ethnic and religious minorities within the region, defend political prisoners, fight for the abolition of the death penalty, and promote women's and children's rights. In addition, the KMMK-G intends to increase public awareness on the situation of human rights in all Kurdish regions and to promote the rights and integration of the Kurds wherever they live.

Established in Geneva in 2006, the KMMK-G constitutes a bridge between the Kurdish civil society, the United Nations Agencies and NGOs and participates actively in all the sessions of the Human Rights Council, the ESCR, the CPR Committee, the UPR and the UN Forum on minority issues and presents them with reports on the situation of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran (www.kmmk-ge.org), (<http://www.kmmk-ge.org/?p=426&lang=en>). Moreover, the Association frequently gets in touch with various United Nations organs in order to submit reports to them on the situation of human rights in the Kurdistan of Iran.

The KMMK-G is, therefore, a recognized source of information. Its reports are published on the website of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner of Human Rights. The Association also frequently publishes articles in Kurdish and Iranian media.

The KMMK-G is also active within the Geneva and Swiss communities. Swiss political parties regularly consult with the Association about the Kurdish issue and immigrants' integration. Furthermore, the KMMK-G supports the Kurdish diaspora living in exile by organising conferences, cultural events and language courses.