

Oberste Justizautorität
Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15
1050 Brüssel
BELGIEN

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Political activist Ebrahim Babaei, 56, remains forcibly disappeared more than four months after attempting to flee Iran, where he faces sentences of imprisonment and flogging, to seek asylum in Turkey. He was in regular contact with family and friends until 21 December 2021, when his messages to them abruptly stopped. Earlier that day, he had told his family and friends that he was in Maku, West Azerbaijan province, and that he would contact them as soon as smugglers informed him that they would start moving towards the border with Turkey. Nobody has heard from him since.

To date, no state body has confirmed his detention and the authorities' official response to his family's continued attempts to obtain information about his fate and whereabouts is that they should go away and wait to be contacted by them.

Ebrahim Babaei's family first learned informally from an intelligence official that he is alive. Another intelligence official later told the family informally that he is being held in secret detention places known as "safe houses" (khanehay-e amn).

I urge you to immediately disclose Ebrahim Babaei's fate and whereabouts, and release him immediately and unconditionally, as he is held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Pending his release, ensure that he is moved to an official place of detention, is protected from enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, and is given regular access to his family, a lawyer of his choosing and to adequate medical care.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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