

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Public Relations Office
Number 4, Deadend of 1 Azizi, Vali Asr Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Head of Judiciary,

I turn to you as Saeed Shirzad human rights defender was sentenced to five years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Iran. Saeed Shirzad sewed his lips shut and started a hunger strike on 7 December 2016 in protest at inhuman prison conditions, such as the denial of medical care, beatings, the prison officials' degrading treatment of inmates and their families during visits through invasive and abusive body searches and poor air circulation. On 14 January he ended his 39-day strike, however his health seriously declined.

Saeed Shirzad has detained without a warrant. His conviction stems solely from his peaceful human rights activities, including contact with the families of political prisoners, and communicating with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran.

I hereby call on you to release Saeed Shirzad immediately and unconditionally, moreover, pending his unconditional release, ensure he is granted access to adequate specialized medical care in a hospital outside prison. I also call upon you to take the necessary measures in order to protect prisoners at Raja'i Shahr Prison from torture and other ill-treatment, ensuring that they are treated humanely in accordance with international law and standards.

Yours sincerely,