



Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

18/07/2022

Re: Prisoners Swap Between the Belgium Kingdom and Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellencies,

The Iran National Council for Free Election shows its concerns regarding the new bill on the exchange of convicts with the Islamic regime of Iran. We would like to share some important points about how this new bill is against international human rights, the safety of political refugees in Europe and the fundamental basis of democracy in Belgium and the world.

The approval of this bill will endanger the lives of anyone who criticizes the Islamic regime of Iran, especially Iranian political activists who have sought asylum in European countries. Because the Islamic regime of Iran can easily send agents by using its embassies, diplomats, or other employees and assassins who are hired by it to target its critics in Belgium or any other country, then move to Belgium, which is going to be a sanctuary for Islamic terrorists, so if arrested and convicted, Brussels will send them home to spend their sentences because the Islamic regime of Iran can easily arrest a Belgian on false charges to arrange an exchange.

But we all know that the government that has no respect for human rights not only would not put these terrorists in prison but also praises them with political and high positions in the government. We have had so many examples of them in the past, like the assassin of Shapour Bakhtiar. Also, the possibility of exchanging convicts will enable the Islamic regime of Iran to continue abductions, hostage-taking and terrorist activities in Europe and elsewhere.

It is also against one of the fundamental pillars of democracy, which is the independence of the judicial system. By approving and running this bill, the Belgian parliament not only disrespects the judge but also takes over the independence and power of the judicial system's ability to fulfill its mission to protect the citizens of Europe by denying it the ability to make perpetrators accountable.

Furthermore, it violates a dozen international treaties aimed at combating terrorism and is a slap in the face to all families who have lost a loved one in terror attacks around the world in recent decades. We appeal to the consider these important facts, which affect every citizen of the European Union, and ask the Belgium government and parliament to reconsider this bill.

We sincerely thank you for your assistance and consideration to this urgent humanitarian matter.

Very truly yours,
Nazila Golestan

Special Envoy for Human Rights
Iran National Council for Free Elections

CC:
His Excellency Alexander De Croo,
Prime Minister of Belgium
Rue de la Loi 16 BE-1000 Brussels

His Excellency Tiny Kox,
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)