

Jafar Panahi, Mohsen Namjoo and over 160 artists and activists voiced their objection to the heavy sentences levied on two musicians and one filmmaker in Iran

165 Iranian musicians, filmmakers, authors, and activists signed and released the following statement objecting to the heavy sentences handed out to, and tortures inflicted upon, musician, Sehtar player and founder of media platform Barg Music, Mehdi Rajabian, filmmaker Hossein Rajabian and musician Yousef Emadi. They have also called for the unconditional and immediate release of these three artists and demanded an end to the ill-treatment of the artists.

The statement reads as follows:

Over the past few months in Iran, artists and intellectuals have been going through conditions harsher than before. Subsequent to the detention of the artists, heavy sentences against them, debarment from exercising their professional activities, now a new concern is raised about the court of appeals that convened recently for musician, Sehtar player and founder of the media platform Barg Music, Mehdi Rajabian, filmmaker Hossein Rajabian and musician Yousef Emadi.

Spending several weeks of imprisonment in an unknown location in 2013, being forced to make TV confessions under coercion and torture, held in solitary confinement at ward 2A of Evin Prison for more than two months, and finally released from jail on 200 million tomans bail for each, these artists were sentenced to 18 years of prison at the court of first instance, convened this year.

Sentences of this kind, pronounced by Iranian judicial institutions, appear to be more appropriate for criminals rather than the artists, but today in Iran artists are punished far more severely than criminals.

We the undersigned, while condemning any kind of suppression and crackdown on artists, call for the immediate, unconditional release of these three individuals and demand an end to the ill-treatment of the artists.

Signatures:

Sahand Adam Aref

Shabnam Azar

Farshad Arya

Maryam Amoosa

Hadi Ebrahimi Roudbaraki

Akram Ehghaghi

Fatemeh Ekhtesari

Rahil Arjomandi

Shahla Esmaeel zadeh

Nasrin Afzali

Yahya Al Khansaa

Zara Amjadian

Asieh Amini

Bahman Amini

Anahita Avestayi

Alborz Ilani

Maryam Babaei

Samira Bazgir

Zahra Bagheri Shad

Xalid Bayazidi

Soleyman Bayazidi

Fakhri Barzandeh

Afsaneh Borzoei

Amirhossein Borzoei

Ladan Boroumand

Saheb Boustani

Azam Bahrami

Shadi Beyzaie

Farrokh Beyk

Shahrnoush Parsipour

Ardalan Payvar

Vanda Partovi

Hamid Parham

Mahshid Pegahi

Jafar Panahi

Zeynab Peyghambarzadeh

Roya Tafti

Nargess Tavassolian

Sepideh Jodeyri

Mehri Jafari

Nama Jafari

Jelveh Javaheri

Javad Javaheri

MohammadReza Jahani

Tahereh Chenari

Rahman Choopani

Reza Hajihosseini

Omid Habibinia

Banafsheh Hejazi

Masoud Haddadi

Saeed Hassanzadeh

Parvaneh Hosseini

Morteza Hosseini

Nahid Hosseini

Yousef Hosseini

Yasamin Hashdari

Erwin Khachikian

Pooya Khazeni Oskoei

Mina Khazeni Oskoei
Nikoo Khakpour
Hanif Khorasani Nejad
Sara Khalili Jahromi
Babak Khoshjan
Danial Dadvar
Azadeh Davachi
Naeimeh Doostdar
Behzad Zolnour
Maryam Rahmani
Salomeh Rahimi
Sahar Rezazadeh
Nasim Roshanayi
Maryam Zareie
Masoumeh Zamani
Siamand Zandi
Mandana Zandian
Maysam Seraj
Sara Saeedi
Sareh Sokout
Gharan Savadkouhi
Mansoureh Shojaee
Mohammad Shabani
Rouhi Shafii
Omid Shams
Fateme Shams

Sholeh Shams Shahbaz

Naghib Shanbehzadeh

Nasim Salehi

Ladan Sahraei

Gholamreza Sarraf

Mani Saffar

Mina Saffar

Nima Saffar Soflaei

Safoura Safavi

Melody Safavi

Farzaneh Zamen

Farzad Tabaie

Roya Toloui

Samaneh Abedini

Hooman Azizi

Hafez Azimi

Mohammad Alavi Rad

Aida Amidi

Sepideh Farsi

Hossein Martin Fazeli (Naa naam)

Hamed Farmand

Nahid Farhad

Sasan Faridyfar

Payam Feili

Hamidreza Ghasemzadeh

Zohreh Ghasemi

Farid Ghadami
Mahtab Ghorbani
Sasan Ghahreman
Samuel Kaboli
Mehrangiz Kar
Saeedeh Keshavarzi
Omid Keshtkar
Peyman Kamali
Farnaz Kamali
Ali Asghar Kiani
Fathollah Kianiha
Mohammad Gonabadi
Saghi Laghaie
Sepideh Majidzadeh
Leili Mohseni
Sheida Mohammadi
Darioush Mohamadi Majd
Nasrin Madani
Ghazal Moradi
Mohammad Amin Marei
Jafar Mortazavi
Morteza Moshtaghi
Hamed Mostafavi
Marmar Moshfeghi – Masoumi
Darioush Memar
Khadijeh Moghaddam

Rezvan Moghaddam

Elham Malekpour

Rana Mansour

Parisa Mousavi

Seyed Ehsan Mousavi

Seyed Mehdi Mousavi

Habib Mousavi Bibalani

Mohammad Mehdipour

Majid Mirzaei

Moaddab Miralaei

Mohammad Milani

Mohsen Namjoo

Shahin Najafi

Sabri Najafi

Farideh Naghsh

Ali Negahban

Shirindokht Noormanesh

Morteza Norouzi

Alireza Norouzi

Hamed Nikpay

Nima Nia

Kourosh Niknasr

Hamidreza Vashghani Farahani

Nina Vabab

Amirali Valipour

Maryam Hooleh

Hanibal Yousef

Mehdi Yousefi

Shadi Yousefian

Mehdi Jami

Ali Jahangiri

Gholam Asgari

Mahnaz Ghezellou

Jordi Zindel