Iran: Canadian resident Saeed Malekpour

Your Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,

Web programmer Saeed Malekpour, a permanent resident of Canada and Iranian national, had previously been sentenced to death on charges including "acting against national security by spreading propaganda against the system" and "insulting and desecrating Islam." It is alleged a web based program he developed was used to post pornographic images to the internet. Saeed Malekpour has denied all knowledge of the program being used for this purpose.

He was further sentenced on vaguely worded charges, including "insulting the Leader", "insulting the President", "insulting Islamic sanctities", and "spreading propaganda against the system" in relation to the web program he created and a public letter he wrote in 2010 detailing the torture to which he was subjected while in pre-trial detention. His death sentence has now been commuted to life imprisonment.

- Release Saeed Malekpour immediately and quash his conviction and sentence;
- Order a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into Saeed Malekpour's allegations of torture or other ill-treatment. Bring to justice anyone suspected of responsibility in a fair trial, and without recourse to the death penalty.



Petition created: October 2016
Please submit petition by March 2017 to:

Amnesty International Canada 312 Laurier Avenue East Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9

Contact: gnafziger@amnesty.ca

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Canadian resident Saeed Malekpour: Backgrounder

Saeed Malekpour has been in detention since his arrest on 4 October 2008. He was jailed while on a family visit to Iran and charged with offences including "acting against national security by spreading propaganda against the system" and "insulting and desecrating Islam". Saeed Malekpour insists that the program and code he created was used by others without his knowledge.

Following his arrest, Saeed Malekpour was held in solitary confinement for more than one year. In 2009, Iranian state television repeatedly aired his "confession." In an open letter dated March 2010, Saeed Malekpour stated his "confession" was extracted after prolonged torture following orders by Revolutionary Guard interrogators.

Saeed Malekpour was sentenced to death in December 2010 following a trial that reportedly only lasted 15 minutes. For much of his detention Saeed Malekpour had limited access to legal counsel. In December 2012 Saeed Malekpour's lawyer reported that Saeed Malekpour's death sentence was suspended. His family subsequently reported the death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment.

Saeed Malekpour is one of the growing numbers of media workers and bloggers in Iran who are being targeted because of their work on the internet.

- **Deadline:** If the deadline to submit petitions has passed and you want to know if the petition deadline has been extended or if there is a new version of the petition available, please contact gnafziger@amnesty.ca.
- Sending in petitions: Once this petition is completed, please submit it within a week to Amnesty International in Ottawa, ON at the address listed on the petition.
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