HUMAN RIGHTS FOR SPORT

October 30,2026
Oslo, Norway
Open Letter

To: International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)| By Email

Subject: Urgent Safeguarding Concern Regarding Imminent Risk of Execution of Iranian Climber Ms. Maryam Hadavand Siri, and the dire situation of imprisoned members of Iranian Climbing Community

Dear President Peter Muir,

Dear Mr. Martin Lascano, Vice President

Dear Mr. Amit Chowdhury, Secretary General

Dear Mr. Young Hoon Oh, Asia Representative

Dear Ms. Saray Khymalo, UIAA Executive Committee

Dear Mr. Stein Tronstad, Representative member, NKF president

To UIAA Safeguarding Team,

And to all members of UIAA Athlete Commission

We are Human Rights For Sport, a non-governmental organization based in Oslo, Norway, dedicated to documenting and raising awareness of human rights violations affecting athletes and sporting communities. We write to you with urgency regarding the execution of Iran climbers on political charges and escalating risks faced by imprisoned Iranian climbers, whose case requires immediate attention from the UIAA. These circumstances appear directly relevant to Articles 2.3 and 4.1 of the UIAA Safeguarding Policy, concerning risks of Physical and Psychological abuse and breaches of safeguarding principles.

So far in 2026, two Iranian climbers have been executed on political charges.

1. Mr. Babak Alipour, Mountaineer, Law Graduate, 34 years old, executed on March 31
2. Mr. Ali-Sina Mostafavi, Mountaineer, 38 years old, executed on October 14

These executions have raised grave concerns about the safety of other imprisoned members of the Iranian climbing community. The imminent threat to this athlete's life reflects a broader pattern of repression in Iran, where athletes have been subjected to arrest and persecution for exercising their fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Article 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The reported circumstances raise serious concerns regarding due process and fair trial guarantees. Amnesty International has also documented the systematic unfairness of

judicial proceedings before Iran's Revolutionary Courts, highlighting their failure to meet fair trial standards and their role in facilitating arbitrary and politically motivated executions.

A. Individuals who have received judicial verdicts

1. **Ms. Maryam Hadavand Siri**, a 42-year-old mountaineer and mother of two from Pakdasht, Tehran was arrested during the January 2026 protests and later **sentenced to death** by Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, amid serious concerns about due process and denial of legal counsel.

B. Individuals awaiting judicial verdicts

2. **Ms. Fatemeh Jami**, a mountaineer, was arrested at her home on June 30 by officers of the Cyber Police (FATA). She was subsequently transferred to Gorgan Prison, where she remains detained without a clear judicial decision, access to a lawyer, or the medical assistance she has requested.
3. **Ms. Tara (Shirin) Masoudi**, a member of the Razhan Mountaineering Group in Mahabad, she was arrested on August 19, 2026, following a raid by Intelligence Office agents on her workplace. She was subsequently transferred to a security detention centre in Urmia for interrogation. She was later released on substantial bail; however, her judicial proceedings remain ongoing, and she is still awaiting a final verdict.

4. Five members of the Oghab (Eagle) and Kouh Sabz (Green Mountain) climbing groups in Saqqez were arrested in the early hours of October 8, 2026, following a violent raid by Saqqez Intelligence Office forces on their homes. The detainees are **Mr. Mohammad Hakimpour, Mr.Mostafa Ghaderi, Mr.Mohammad Saleh Hosseini, Mr.Hossein Abdollahi, and Mr.Khaled Rahimi**. Following their arrest, they were subjected to insults and physical abuse at the Saqqez Intelligence Detention Centre. To date, they have been denied access to legal counsel, family visits, and telephone calls. Repeated efforts by their families to obtain information or secure their rights have so far been unsuccessful.

Our Request

Given the serious risk to the lives and safety of imprisoned Iranian climbers, we urge the UIAA to take immediate action and use its influence within the international sporting community to help protect those at risk. Specifically, we respectfully call on the UIAA to:

1. Engage with the Mountaineering Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

We urge UIAA to urgently contact and formally appeal to the Mountaineering Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, urging it to use all available means to intervene with the relevant authorities, seek an immediate halt to any pending executions, and advocate for the release of imprisoned climbers.

Such action would be consistent with the UIAA Articles of Association, Code of Ethics, and safeguarding policy , as well as its commitment to protecting members of the mountaineering community. The UIAA Code of Ethics and safeguarding principles make clear that abuse and harassment are incompatible with the UIAA's values and that all forms of such conduct are prohibited and will not be tolerated.

2. Engage directly with Iranian National Sports Authorities

We further call on the UIAA to engage directly with the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Sport and Youth to raise these urgent concerns and call for immediate measures to protect the safety, fundamental rights, and well-being of imprisoned climbers, in accordance with the safeguarding principles and values of the Olympic Movement.

3. Raise the matter with the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Engage directly with the IOC to bring attention to the reported arbitrary detention, mistreatment, and risk of execution facing members of the Iranian sporting community, and to seek appropriate action within the IOC's mandate and human rights commitments.

Further engagement

Human Rights for Sport remains available to provide any additional information or documentation that may assist the UIAA in addressing these concerns. We would welcome a meeting with representatives of the FEI, AEF, or other relevant sporting bodies to discuss these concerns further and to explore any available avenues for athlete safeguarding. Please do not hesitate to contact us at zohreh.khani@humanrightsforsport.org.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Zohreh Abdollahkhani

Human Rights For Sport