

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency
Mr. Ebrahim Raisi
via Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the Iranian citizen, Mr. Anooshavan Avedian. He was sentenced to ten years in prison on April 11, 2023, and he began his prison term on September 18, 2023. The 61-year-old was simply exercising his right to express his religious beliefs in community with other Christians.

Mr. Avedian - leader of a Christian community - had gathered with other believers in his apartment for prayer on August 21, 2020, when the meeting was interrupted by security forces. All Bibles, mobile devices and passwords of those present were collected and confiscated. Mr. Avedian was arrested with several other Christians and was only temporarily released after posting a substantial amount of bail.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a binding treaty under international law that guarantees freedom of religion. I therefore humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to advocate the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Avedian.

Most respectfully,