

His Excellency
President Massud Peseschkian
c/o Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to you out of concern for the Iranian citizen Zahra Gholami. As a Christian, she exercised her right to freely choose her religion. On the evening of 11 December 2023, she was arrested during a raid in the northern district capital of Shahriar. On 2 July 2024, she and several other Christians were put on trial before the Revolutionary Court of Shahriar District. The court convicted her of “founding” and “membership” of a “group or organisation with the aim of undermining national security”. She was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, which she began serving in November 2025. In February 2026, she was granted temporary release from prison on medical grounds. Since 29 June, she has been back in prison.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby assuming binding obligations under international law. Article 18 of the Covenant guarantees everyone the right to change their religion or belief and to manifest it, individually or in community with others. I therefore urge you to work towards the immediate and unconditional release of this prisoner of conscience.

Yours faithfully,