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Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
at the United Nations
Mr. Volker Turk
Palais de Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

**Minister für Kultur,
Bundes- und Europa-
angelegenheiten und
Chef der Staatskanzlei**

Prof. Dr.
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Ihr Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom:

Unser Zeichen:
(bitte bei Antwort angeben)

Erfurt
03. Januar 2023

Mr. Akbar Ghaffari

Dear Mr. High Commissioner,

I am writing to you with deep concern for Iranian citizen Akbar Ghaffari.

Mr Ghaffari allowed protesters in Iran into his home. He was arrested and reportedly tortured. He was forced under torture to sign a self-indictment, although Mr Ghaffari is said to be illiterate or only insufficiently literate, in which he accuses himself of shooting dead a representative of the security organs.

I have already protested in writing to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany, Mahmoud Farazandeh, against this procedure and this treatment.

As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and from your legal work, you know that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates, among other things, the prohibition of torture (Article 5), the right to legal protection (Article 8) and the right to a fair trial (Art. 10) and the presumption of innocence (Art. 11) are guaranteed.

Since Mr. Akbar Ghaffari is under acute threat, I urge you to intercede with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Mr. Ghaffari's life and his immediate release. With all due respect for the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would ask you, from your position, to convey my concern and the great urgency of the matter to the Iranian government.

I know that you have been approached from various quarters with a request to stand up for the political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran and – as far as you can – to work towards their release and the waiver of further death sentences. Rest assured that you will be supported in this commitment by a multitude of committed and concerned people.

As far as information about Akbar Ghaffari becomes available to you, I would be grateful for a message.

Kind regards

Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff