

# THE ABAN TRIBUNAL



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Ambassador Mohsen Baharvand  
Mr Mohsen Baharvand  
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
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Dear Ambassador, Baharvand

Reference is made to our previous letters regarding the Aban Tribunal which have remained unanswered and unacknowledged.

The Iran Atrocities Tribunal (Aban Tribunal) concluded its second round of the hearings on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February, with additional 18 witnesses testifying before the Tribunal including a Commander of the Revolutionary Guards and other members of the security forces. Additionally, a further 40 written statements was submitted to the Tribunal.

Your government and 160 named accused chose not to engage with the Tribunal and the Counsel did not receive any representation or evidence from the government of Iran or the accused.

The Counsel presented its case against the Islamic Republic of Iran and 160 accused in a 300+ page memorandum. For each of the accused the Counsel submitted evidence of their involvement in the atrocities including the public statements they made, witness testimonies and video clips as well as their relevant position and function demonstrating their shared responsibility in the crimes.

As you are aware the Counsel has asked for all the accused to be found culpable or responsible for perpetrating crimes against humanity.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February, the day after the conclusion of second round of hearings of the Tribunal, your government chose to make a public statement through Khatibzadeh, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ridiculing the Tribunal's process as a "show-piece" and the British Government as the "show-master". Yet despite the repeated requests, your government chose not to meaningfully engage with the Tribunal. Khatibzadeh also mentioned that a note of protest has been submitted to the British Government.

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Further a report of the Ministry of Justice, leaked by “edalate-e-Ali” (issued on 24.8.1400 - upon the conclusion of the first round of the hearings of the Tribunal), reflects the judiciary’s concern regarding the works of human rights tribunals, in particular, Aban Tribunal. The author, Mustafa Ashrafi, warns the recipient, Alghasi Mehr, Tehran’s prosecutor, that “Iran Tribunal and Aban Tribunal are paving the way for arrest and prosecution of the officials of the Islamic Republic in the European Courts, as they did in Hamid Noury’s case”. The leaked report clearly demonstrates that the judiciary, rather than fulfil its constitutional duty under Article 156 “to support individual and social rights” and “implement justice” has been reduced to be an instrument which furthers impunity in the country. Ashrafi fails to point out that if he and his superior, Alghasi Mehr have fulfilled their obligations as public prosecutors and pursued and investigated the crimes of the perpetrators, there would have been no need to organise this Tribunal in London.

Mr Ambassador, we encourage the Iranian government to take drastic measures to instil confidence of the Iranian people in its judiciary and government officials. That can only be achieved by transparent and genuine investigation of the crimes disclosed to the Aban Tribunal and by bringing all the perpetrators to justice, without exception.

Regards

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