



## **International Federation of Iranian Refugees(IFIR)**

Organisation No. 802400-9261

**Letter from the International Federation of Iranian Refugees**

**To the Immigration Office and the Ministry of Interior of Turkey**

**Copy to: UNHCR, Amnesty International and IOM in Turkey**

**Copy to: Mahmoud Kachan, lawyer of Afshin Sohrabzadeh**

**UNHCR case number: 495-16c00055**



**Afshin Sohrabzadeh, Iranian refugee in Turkey, has been arrested and is awaiting deportation. Afshin's life is in grave danger!**

Afshin Sohrabzadeh, who was imprisoned in the Islamic Republic for 7 years on the charges of “corruption on earth against God”, will face the death penalty if deported to Iran. According to the documents provided to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR), Afshin fell ill in the prison of the Islamic Republic and was transferred to a hospital with heavy bail and the intervention of doctors, from which he managed to escape.

Afshin, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison in Iran and then exile to Minab city, went to Turkey in 2016 after escaping from the hospital and applied for asylum at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Both the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Turkish government accepted Afshin's asylum application.

Afshin was arrested by immigration police on April 5, 2021 in the city of Eskişehir.

After his arrest, the International Federation of Iranian Refugees has been following the case and has gathered its detail from various sources over the past few days. The Turkish government responded to Afshin Sohrabzadeh's lawyer, Mahmoud Kachan, by writing only one short sentence: "He has been detained for acting against Turkish national security" and gave no further explanation.

On 29 March 2021, Afshin went for an interview in the city of Eskişehir, where he resides, and on Monday, April 5th, he went to the Immigration Office to get an exit permission form, and the immigration police arrested him there.

Fereshteh Taj, Afshin's wife, heard the news of her husband's arrest and went to the Immigration Office. She was told that Afshin had to go to Ankara to answer some questions.

Following this incident, Afshin Sohrabzadeh told his wife in a phone call that he had been taken to a deportation camp in the city of Kayseri, not to Ankara. Mahmoud Kachan, Afshin's lawyer, has been following his case, but unfortunately, until the publication of this letter, no decision has been made to suspend his deportation order.

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According to reports reaching IFIR headquarters, Turkish police violently beat Afshin to get his consent for deporting him to Iran. Afshin cut his neck in protest to the police brutality.

Even if Afshin Sohrabzadeh has committed a crime in Turkey, according to international standards and regulations, he should not be extradited to the Iranian government because, firstly, he was a political prisoner in Iran and escaped from prison, and secondly, Afshin was granted asylum by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Therefore, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Turkish government will be responsible for any danger that threatens the life of Afshin Sohrabzadeh if he is deported to Iran.

International Federation of Iranian Refugees

April 10, 2021

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