

Mr Miguel Ángel Pinto, President of the First Commission  
Calle 10 No. 7- 51 2° Piso  
Capitolio Nacional, Bogota  
COLOMBIA

Amsterdam, May 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

I am writing to ask you to guarantee the safety and protection of human rights defenders in Colombia. **María, Jani, Joel and Danelly** are brave people. Together with their indigenous, farmer and black communities, they have been the voices and protectors of the environment and natural resources of Colombia. Because of their work they are persecuted, threatened and under surveillance, and every day they are at risk of being killed.

Defending human rights and the environment in Colombia should not be a death sentence. There must be guarantees and protection for those who speak out against economic and political interests that attack human rights and the environment.

The right to defend human rights is key to guaranteeing the rights of all people in Colombia. Therefore, the Colombian Congress must create the Commission for the Verification of Guarantees to monitor and follow up with the fulfilment of responsibilities to protect defenders, including those who protect the environment.

Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Name:  
Address:  
City:  
Country:

Head of judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi  
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15  
1050 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Amsterdam, May 2021

Your Excellency,

German-Iranian political dissident **Jamshid Sharmahd**, aged 66, has been arbitrarily detained for over eight months in connection with his involvement in the Iranian opposition group, Kingdom Assembly of Iran. State TV has aired propaganda videos which show Sharmahd 'confessing' to having a role in the 2008 explosion in Shiraz, Fars province, in violation of his right to the presumption of innocence as well as the right not to self-incriminate. Since December 2020, the authorities have subjected him to circumstances akin to an enforced disappearance by holding him in unidentified locations

As an older person with pre-existing conditions, Sharmahd is at heightened risk of severe illness or death if he contracts COVID-19 while in pre-trial detention. In light of this and the fact that he is arbitrarily detained, I call on you to release him. Pending his release, ensure that he is provided with adequate medical care, a lawyer of his choosing, consular assistance from the German authorities and regular communication with his family. If charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence, he must be tried in accordance with international fair trial standards in proceedings that exclude coerced "confessions" and without recourse to the death penalty.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Name:  
Address:  
City:  
Country:

Excellency Minister Djimet Arabi, Minister of Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'Djamena  
TSJAAD

Amsterdam, May 2021

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you in concern of human rights defender **Baradine Berdei Targuio**, the President of the Chadian Human Rights Organization. On 18 February, the Criminal Court sentenced Baradine Berdei Targuio to three years in prison and a fine of 250,000CFA for 'breach of the constitutional order'. On 22 January 2020, two days before his arrest, Baradine Berdei Targuio posted on Facebook that the President of Chad might have been seriously ill and was in France for treatment. He had also addressed an open letter to the President on the human rights situation in the Tibesti region in Chad, in the context of a state of emergency. I believe that Baradine Berdei Targuio's conviction is a punishment for the exercise of his right to freedom of expression.

In this regard, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Baradine Berdei Targuio, who is detained solely for his peaceful human rights work. I also urge you to stop using the criminal justice system to target and harass human rights defenders and ensure a safe and enabling environment for them.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Name:  
Address:  
City:  
Country: