

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency
Mr. Ebrahim Raisi
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the Iranian citizen, Ms. Sakineh Mehri Behjati, who has exercised her right to change her faith. The former Muslim has joined the Christian community "Church of Iran" and has not refrained from practicing her new faith in community, such as, for example, through taking part in prayer meetings. As a result, the Revolutionary Court in the city of Rascht accused her of endangering the security of the state. Ms. Behjati's house church is regularly accused of "Zionist Christianity," which also played a role in this court case. Because of her faith, this Christian lady has been in prison since April 16, 2022.

Iran officially guarantees the right to freedom of religion. Various state representatives have regularly emphasized this in joint declarations in the interreligious dialogue and have thus confirmed that they want to continue to respect Article 18 of the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," which is legally binding for Iran. Therefore, I humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to advocate the immediate and unconditional release of this imprisoned Christian woman.

Most respectfully,