

CREATORS' ORGANISATIONS CONDEMN THE SENTENCING TO DEATH OF IRANIAN RAPPER TOOMAJ SALEHI

On April 24, 2024, Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi, 33, was sentenced to death by hanging by the Isfahan Revolutionary Court.

Before that, in October 2022, Toomaj Salehi was convicted of “corruption on earth” (*efsad-e fel-arz*) and sentenced to six years and three months in prison. He was reportedly severely tortured and endured prolonged solitary confinement.

His crime: his support to the demonstrations that followed the death of Mahsa Amini, a young Iranian woman who was arrested in September 2022 for violating the dress code imposed on women and died three days later while detained by the police.

Toomaj Salehi's sentence violates Iran's international commitment to respect, protect and promote freedom of expression, opinion and belief. The death penalty cannot be the answer to the exercise of artistic freedom. It is a cruel practice and a denial of human rights protected by international law.

Artists play an essential role in society. Silencing them through fear, intimidation, and repression undermines democracy and freedom.

On behalf of our members throughout the world, we firmly condemn the sentencing to death of Toomaj Salehi. We call on the Iranian government to reverse this sentence and release him immediately, as well as all other artists currently detained in Iran for exercising their freedom of expression.

13 May 2024

European Composers and Songwriters Alliance (ECSA) – ECSA represents over 30,000 professional composers and songwriters in 28 European countries. With 58 member organisations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of music creators of art and classical music (contemporary), film and audiovisual music, as well as popular music.

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International Federation of Musicians (FIM) – Founded in 1948, FIM is the global representative organisation for professional musicians and their trade unions. With members in sixty countries, it is recognised by intergovernmental organisations such as the ILO, WIPO, and UNESCO, as well as the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe. It is a member of the Council of Global Unions and the International Music Council.

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International Music Council (IMC) – IMC is the world's largest network of music organisations and institutions, founded by UNESCO in 1949 and dedicated to the advancement of essential music rights for all people. IMC stands for a world where everyone can enjoy access to music, where they can learn, experience, create, perform, and express themselves through music, and in which artists of every kind are recognized and fairly remunerated. IMC brings together people, ideas and actions under the umbrella of the Five Music Rights.

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