

## MOBILISATION OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE CREATION OF AN INVESTIGATION MECHANISM IN IRAN

We, Bar associations and professional organisations of lawyers,

### **Noting that,**

The death of Ms Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody on 16 September 2022, following her arrest for wearing her headscarf "inappropriately", sparked widespread protests across the country. The protests have evolved from a demand for justice for Ms. Amini and the abolition of the mandatory wearing of the hijab to a movement for freedom and democracy.

Since the beginning of the protests, at least 374 protesters, including 60 children, have been killed by the security forces.

Several thousand protesters, including lawyers, were arrested. Many have been tried by the revolutionary courts without due process. At least 20 of them face death penalty charges, and six of them have been sentenced.

They are at risk of execution and cannot benefit from an effective defence with the help of an independent lawyer. Lawyers are arrested if they wish to represent protesters.

The Tehran Prosecutor has already announced that a thousand indictments have been issued in connection with the recent riots in Tehran province alone, foreshadowing mass trials in violation of all the essential principles of a fair trial.

### **Recalling that,**

- Bar associations and professional organisations of lawyers play a crucial role in promoting the rule of law and fighting impunity ;
- Bar associations and professional organisations of lawyers also play a fundamental role in protecting the rights of those facing the death penalty or sentenced to death.

### **Call on the Member States of the United Nations:**

- To support and establish an independent investigation and accountability mechanism to address serious human rights crimes and violations in Iran ;
- To mobilise to ensure that the death penalty is not used as a weapon of repression against those who call for an end to discriminatory laws and policies in Iran.

**list of signatories as of 14 December 2022:**

- Deutscher Anwaltverein (German Bar)
- Austrian Federal Bar Association
- Ordre Français des Avocats du Barreau de Bruxelles / French Bar association of Brussels
- Ordre Van Vlaamse Balies (OVV) / Flemish Bar
- Balie Gent/ Ghent Bar association
- Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Montréal/ bar association of Montreal
- Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Sevilla/ Bar association of Sevilla
- Daini Tokyo Bar Association
- Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates
- Orde van Advocaten den Haag / Bar Association of the Hague
- Warsaw Bar association
- Polish Bar Council - Naczelna Rada Adwokacka
- Ordem dos Advogados Portugueses/ Portuguese Bar
- Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
- The Westminster & Holborn Law Society
- UIA-IROL
- European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)
- Barreau de Paris/ Paris Bar
- Conseil National des barreaux Français (National