

**Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani**

Head of the Judiciary  
c/o Public Relations Office  
Number 4, 2 Aziz Street Intersection  
Tehran, Iran

11 August 2018

**Your Excellency**

I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concern about the involvement of state-affiliated doctors in facilitating the execution of young prisoners in Iran.

According to our colleagues in the World Medical Association, in June this year, 19-year-old Abolfazi Chezani Sharahi was executed for a crime he committed when 14 following medical opinion that he was mentally 'mature' at the time of the offence.

Any involvement of physicians in any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, including assessing individuals as 'fit' for capital punishment is unlawful, unethical and in gross contravention of the professional codes set down by the World Medical Association in its International Code of Medical Ethics.

Reports from Amnesty International suggest that Abolfazi Chezani Sharahi was the fourth person to be executed since the beginning of 2014 after being convicted of crimes committed when under the age of 18 and that there are at least 85 other juvenile offenders awaiting execution assessed as juveniles at the time of their crime based on medical maturity assessments.

Iran has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which absolutely prohibits the use of the death penalty in relation to those below the age of 18 at the time they committed the crime.

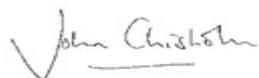
We are writing to urge Iran's authorities to amend the Islamic Penal Code to comply with international human rights laws by abolishing the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by people below the age of 18 in all circumstances.

The primary duty of all physicians is to promote the wellbeing of their patients – and, first and foremost, to ensure they do no harm. The involvement of physicians in facilitating the death penalty is a gross violation of doctors' primary moral obligations. We therefore call upon the Iranian authorities to protect



core professional obligations and ensure that physicians are never involved in sentencing individuals to the death penalty, or in preparing, facilitating or participating in executions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chisholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Dr John Chisholm CBE**  
Medical Ethics Committee Chair