

Joint Statement by Nobel Laureates Addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Human Rights Violations in Iran

June 2026

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary-General,

We, the undersigned Nobel Laureates, with profound respect for the history, civilization, and rich culture of the people of Iran, wish to express our deep and urgent concern regarding the widespread, systematic, and ongoing violations of human rights in Iran.

Human rights are universal and inalienable. The right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, freedom of assembly, the right to a fair trial, and freedom from torture are among the most fundamental principles of human dignity. Yet for decades, the people of Iran have been deprived of these most basic rights.

We are deeply alarmed by reports that the ruling theocracy in Iran has initiated a new wave of executions targeting dozens of political prisoners. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, tens of detainees have been executed since the onset of these events, including individuals accused of participating in the January 2026 protests, engaging in political activities, or affiliating with opposition, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). According to the same source, more than 4,000 individuals have also been arrested during this period on security-related grounds.

These developments are unfolding amid numerous reports and estimates indicating a devastatingly high number of deaths during the suppression of the January protests. Some sources speak of "several thousand" victims — a scale of tragedy to which even certain Iranian officials have alluded.

We, the undersigned, therefore, call for:

- **The immediate halt of executions, particularly in cases of a political nature.**
- **The release of political prisoners and detained protesters.**
- **Unrestricted access for international monitoring mechanisms to detention centers and independent oversight of detainees' conditions.**
- **We further urge democratic governments and institutions to reassess their relations with**

Iran and to make the abolition of the death penalty a fundamental benchmark in all diplomatic engagement.

International silence serves as a green light for repression; and with every passing day that this silence endures, another noose is tightened around another human life.

We believe that the achievement of democracy in Iran must come without war, without foreign military intervention, and without any return to dictatorship — whether under the guise of monarchy or religious absolutism. The future of Iran must be determined solely by the people of Iran through their free and sovereign will.

In this context, the plan presented by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) for the establishment of a temporary transitional government and the transfer of sovereignty to the people — as articulated in Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan — which has been supported by many of us before, offers a clear and democratic vision for Iran's peaceful transition toward freedom and popular sovereignty.

Signatories:

1. **President Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Prize, Peace 1996, Timor-Leste. President of Timor-Leste Since 2022**
2. **Professor Pierre Agostini, Nobel Prize, Physics 2023, France**
3. **Professor Harvey J Alter, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2020, USA**
4. **Professor Victor Ambros, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2024, USA**
5. **Honorable Oscar Arias, Nobel Prize, peace, 1987, President of Costa Rica 2006-2010, Costa Rica**
6. **Professor Alain Aspect, Nobel Prize, Physics 2022, France**
7. **Professor Robert Aumann, Nobel Prize, Economics 2005, USA-Israel**
8. **Professor Barry C Barish, Nobel prize, Physics 2017, USA**
9. **Professor Moungi Bawendi, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2023, USA-Tunisia-France**
10. **Professor Georg Bednorz, Noble prize, Physics 1987, Germany**
11. **Mr. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, Nobel Prize, Peace 1996, East Timor**
12. **Professor Mario Capecchi, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2007, Italy-USA**
13. **Professor Thomas Cech, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1989, USA**
14. **Professor Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2004, Israel**
15. **Professor Steven Chu, Nobel prize, Physics 1997, USA**
16. **Professor Elias Corey, Nobel prize, Chemistry 1990, USA**
17. **Professor Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel prize, Chemistry 1988, USA**
18. **Professor Gerhard Ertl, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2007, Germany**
19. **Mr. Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel prize, Peace 1980, Argentine**
20. **Professor Jerome Friedman, Nobel prize, Physics 1990, USA**
21. **Professor Reinhard Genzel, Nobel prize, Physics 2020, Germany**
22. **Professor Sheldon Glashow, Nobel prize, Physics 1979, USA**
23. **Professor John Lewis Hall, Nobel prize, Physics 2005, USA**

24. **Professor Peter Handke, Nobel prize, Literature 2019, Austria**
25. **Professor Oliver Hart, Nobel prize, Economics 2016, USA**
26. **Professor Alan Heeger, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2000, USA**
27. **Professor Richard Henderson, Nobel prize, Chemistry, 2017, UK**
28. **Professor Avram Hershko, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2004, Israel-Hungary**
29. **Professor Geoffrey Hinton, Nobel prize, Physics 2024, Canada**
30. **Professor Jules Hoffmann, Nobel prize, Medicine 2011, France**
31. **Professor Bengt Holmstrom, Nobel Prize, Economics 2016, Finland**
32. **Professor Gerardus 't Hooft, Nobel prize, Physics 1999, the Netherlands**
33. **Professor Sir Michael Houghton, Nobel prize, Medicine 2020, UK**
34. **Professor Robert Huber, Nobel prize, Chemistry 1988, Germany**
35. **Dr. Tim Hunt, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2001, UK**
36. **Professor Louis Ignarro, Nobel prize, Medicine 1998, USA**
37. **Sir Kazuo Ishiguro, Nobel Prize, Literature 2017, UK**
38. **Ms. Elfriede Jelinek, Noble prize, Literature 2004, Austria**
39. **Professor Brian Josephson, Nobel prize, Physics 1973, UK**
40. **Professor Takaaki Kajita, Nobel Prize, Physics 2015, Japan**
41. **Professor Brian Kobilka, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2012, USA**
42. **Professor Roger D. Kornberg, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2006, USA**
43. **Professor Ference Krausz, Nobel prize, Physics 2023, Austria-Hungary**
44. **Professor Robert Lefkowitz, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2012, USA**
45. **Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel prize, Chemistry, 1988, France**
46. **Professor John Mather, Nobel Prize, Physics 2006, USA**
47. **Ms. Oleksandra Matvichuk, Nobel prize, Peace 2022, Ukraine**
48. **Professor Michel Mayor, Nobel prize, Physics 2019, Switzerland**
49. **Professor Craig Mello, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2006, USA**
50. **Professor Hartmut Michel, Nobel prize, Chemistry 1988, Germany**
51. **Professor Patrick Modiano, Nobel prize, Literature 2014, France**
52. **Professor Paul Modrich, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2015, USA**
53. **Professor Edvard Moser, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2014, Norway**
54. **Professor May-Britt Moser, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2014, Norway**
55. **Ms. Herta Muller, Nobel Prize, Literature 2009, Germany**
56. **Professor Konstantin Novoselov, Nobel prize, Physics 2010, Russia-UK**
57. **Professor William Phillips, Nobel prize, Physics 1997, USA**
58. **Professor John Polanyi, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1986, Canada**
59. **Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2019, UK**
60. **Professor Charles M. Rice, Nobel prize, Medicine 2020, USA**
61. **Professor Sir Richard J. Roberts, Nobel prize, Medicine 1993, UK-USA**
62. **Professor Shimon Sakaguchi, Nobel prize, Medicine 2025, Japan**
63. **Professor Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2016, France**
64. **Professor Richard Schrock, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2005, USA**

65. **Professor Gregg Semenza, Nobel prize, Medicine 2019, USA**
66. **Professor Danny Shechtman, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2011, Israel**
67. **Professor Vernon Smith, Nobel prize, Economics, 2002, USA**
68. **Professor Wole Soyinka, Nobel prize, Literature 1986, Nigeria**
69. **Professor Jack Szostak, Nobel prize, Medicine 2009, USA**
70. **Professor Joseph H. Taylor, Nobel prize, Physics 1993, US**
71. **Professor Olga Tokarczuk, Nobel Prize, Literature 2018, Poland**
72. **Professor Sir John Walker, Nobel prize, Chemistry 1998, UK**
73. **Professor Arieh Warshel, Nobel prize, Chemistry 2013, USA-Israel**
74. **Professor Eric Wieschaus, Nobel prize, Medicine, 1995, USA**
75. **Professor Torsten Wiesel, Nobel prize, Medicine 1981, Sweden**
76. **Ms. Jody Williams, Nobel prize, Peace 1996, USA**
77. **Professor Robert Wilson, Nobel prize, Physics 1978, USA**
78. **Professor David J. Wineland, Nobel prize, Physics 2012, USA**
79. **Professor Orhan Pamuk, Nobel Prize, Literature 2006, Turkey-USA**
80. **Professor Morten Meldal, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2022, Denmark**
81. **Professor P. James Peebles, Nobel Prize, Physics 2019, USA**
82. **Professor Philippe Aghion, Nobel Prize, Economics 2025, France**
83. **Professor Peter Agre, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2003, USA**
84. **Professor Bruce Beutler, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2011, USA**
85. **Professor Anne l'Huillier, Nobel Prize, Physics 2023, Sweden**
86. **Professor William Moerner, Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2014, USA**
87. **Professor Donna Strickland, Nobel Prize, Physics 2018, Canada**
88. **Professor Andrew Fire, Nobel Prize, Medicine 2006, USA**
89. **Professor Francois Englert, Nobel Prize, Physics 2013, Belgium**
90. **Professor Daron Acemoglu, Nobel Prize, Economics 2024, Turkey-USA**
91. **Professor Adam Riess, Nobel Prize, Physics 2011, USA**
92. **Professor Guido Imbens, Nobel Prize, Economics 2021, Netherlands, USA**