

URGENT ACTION

TORTURED BAHA'I COUSINS AT RISK OF DEATH PENALTY

Cousins Peyvand Naimi and Borna Naimi from Iran's persecuted Baha'i minority, may be at risk of the death penalty. Authorities are accusing them of capital offences linked to the January 2026 protests. Agents subjected them to torture and other ill-treatment including beatings, mock executions and electric shocks to force "confessions" and have denied them access to lawyers and medical care.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Cousins Peyvand Naimi, 30, and Borna Naimi, 29, from Iran's persecuted Baha'i religious minority, who are detained in Kerman prison, Kerman province, are at risk of the death penalty. Authorities are accusing them of involvement in the killing of state agents during nationwide protests on 8 January 2026, when security forces massacred thousands of protesters and bystanders across the country. Plain-clothes agents arrested Peyvand Naimi at his work on 8 January 2026 and refused to disclose his fate or whereabouts to his family for weeks, subjecting him to enforced disappearance, a crime under international law. According to an informed source, during a 30-second call to family 19 days after arrest, he told them he was being held by the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), without specifying the location. He added that he would do whatever interrogators wanted due to pressure. In March, after dozens of prisoners were released from Kerman prison for the Persian new year, the prosecutor in Kerman told his family that no Baha'is would be released. He was later moved to Kerman prison where he remains in solitary confinement. Agents arrested Borna Naimi on 1 March 2026 and subjected him to enforced disappearance for several days in an IRGC detention centre and later moved him to Kerman prison.

According to an informed source, IRGC agents subjected both cousins to torture and other ill-treatment to extract forced "confessions". Peyvand Naimi was subjected to mock executions, beatings, suspension from hands and feet, prolonged solitary confinement, and denied food. Authorities are denying him healthcare for gastrointestinal and other medical conditions he developed in prison. On 1 February 2026, authorities broadcast a propaganda video about a purported "Baha'i network" they dismantled containing his forced "confession." In the video, he is heard stating that he attended a protest, violating his rights to presumption of innocence and to not self-incriminate. Agents subjected Borna Naimi to beatings, mock executions and electric shocks, causing burns to his feet, and threatened to harm his wife and daughter if he refused to cooperate. He was forced under torture and threats to sign a pre-written "confession" implicating himself and Peyvand Naimi in the killing of Basij agents during the 8 January 2026 protests, which they have denied. According to an informed source, authorities have provided no evidence linking them to the killings. They have yet to be indicted but such accusations could lead to charges carrying the death penalty. Both have been denied access to a lawyer. According to an informed source, Peyvand Naimi was previously targeted for his Baha'i faith through the forcible closure of his business.

I urge you to release Peyvand Naimi and Borna Naimi whose detentions are arbitrary due to the gravity of the violations of their fair trial rights, including denial of access to a lawyer from the time of arrest, violation of the presumption of innocence, enforced disappearance, and torture and other ill-treatment to compel them to self-incriminate. If held solely on account of their Baha'i faith, they must be immediately released. Pending release, protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment and promptly, independently, impartially, and effectively investigate their torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of responsibility to justice in fair trials, ensuring access to justice and effective remedies for victims. I further urge you to remove Peyvand Naimi from solitary confinement and grant both access to their families, lawyers of their own choosing, and to adequate medical care. I call on you to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following Peyvand Naimi's arrest, his family sought information about his fate or whereabouts from various official bodies in Kerman province but authorities repeatedly dismissed them and denied holding him. After three days, the family received a 30-second call from Peyvand Naimi during which he did not say where he was being held. He made another 30-second call 19 days after arrest during which he stated that he had not been charged but that he was being held by the Intelligence Organization of the IRGC without specifying the location. When the family followed up with the prosecutor's office, an official told them that his detention was not related to a serious issue and that they should not be alarmed or raise concerns. In subsequent calls to family, he sounded highly distressed. On 1 February 2026, authorities broadcast a propaganda [video](#) about arrests made in relation to a purported "Baha'i network" during the January 2026 protests in Kerman province featuring several people with blurred faces making "confessions" about alleged involvement in organized online groups and foreign-orchestrated acts of violence. Peyvand Naimi, identified by his voice, appeared briefly in the video to say that participants in his online group agreed to meet in the town square and to "stay among protesters". Following this, he made another brief call his to family in which he sounded distressed and told them that he has not done anything wrong.

Peyvand Naimi was later transferred from the IRGC detention facility to Kerman prison. However, on the first day of the Israeli-US attacks on Iran on 28 February 2026, agents removed him from the prison yard and returned him to the IRGC detention facility for 10 days. According to an informed source, during this period, agents subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment to compel him to make false "confessions" again. For the first two days, agents suspended him from his hands and feet, beat him repeatedly and denied him food. Interrogators told him that because it was a period of fasting for Baha'is, he "should not be eating", in a discriminatory targeting of his religious identity. For the next three days, agents beat him repeatedly. Agents also subjected him twice to mock execution by simulating hanging. Interrogators accused him of involvement in the killing of three agents from the IRGC's Basij battalions during protests in Kerman on 8 January 2026. Agents also accused him of "celebrating" while in prison the death of the late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed during US-Israeli attacks on 28 February 2026. According to an informed source, agents subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment to compel him to accept these accusations, but he refused and has denied them. His health has deteriorated in detention with gastrointestinal problems and an involuntary eye twitch, both of which he developed in detention. He was returned to Kerman prison after 10 days and is now being held in solitary confinement in the prison. No written charges or other formal documentation have been provided to his family.

Following Borna Naimi's arrest on 1 March 2026, he was held in a detention centre controlled by the Intelligence Organization of the IRGC when, according to an informed source, agents subjected him to mock executions, electric shocks causing burns to his feet and legs, and repeated beatings including on his ribs and back. After days of torture and other ill-treatment, as well as threats to harm his wife and child, he was forced to sign a false "confession" pre-written by interrogators implicating both himself and Peyvand Naimi in killing members of Basij forces on 8 January 2026. According to information gathered by Amnesty International, authorities have not presented any evidence implicating the cousins in any internationally recognizable offences. Borna Naimi was later transferred to Kerman prison where he is now held.

On 17 January 2026, the Ministry of Intelligence [announced](#) that a "32-member espionage network linked to the Baha'i sect, which was active in the unrest and acts of destruction, has been identified", with 12 people arrested and another 13 summoned. The statement accused the individuals, based on "intelligence and confessions", of forming a "spy network" in multiple provinces, including Kerman, and claimed they were involved in "attacking government buildings and inciting and encouraging rioters to attack police and military centres" during the January 2026 protests. The IRGC also issued a [statement](#) on 20 January 2026, stating that a "network of elements from the deviant Baha'i sect in Kerman was identified and dismantled". The statements made no claims that any of the individuals were arrested in relation to the killings of Basij agents.

The Iranian authorities have intensified their persecution of the Baha'i religious minority in recent years. Since the 12-day war in June 2025, authorities have used the securitized climate to intensify this persecution, including through a coordinated state campaign of incitement to hostility, violence, discrimination and disinformation falsely accusing Baha'is as spies and collaborators for Israel.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 19 June 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Peyvand Naimi, Borna Naimi (both he/him)