

17 February 2022

### **Iran: Arbitrary detention of human rights defender Shaban Mohammadi**

On 17 February 2022, after eighteen days of arbitrary detention and fourteen days of no access to telephone calls or visits, the whereabouts of human rights defender **Shaban Mohammadi** remain unknown. The human rights defender is reportedly facing charges on “membership in organizations that aim to disrupt national security” and has been denied access to a lawyer during all his detention time.

Shaban Mohammadi is a human rights defender and a member of Iran Teachers’ Trade Association, Marivan- Kurdistan Branch, who has advocated for rights of children to free education, a proper classification of teachers and harmonization of retirees’ pensions.

17 February 2022 marks the fourteenth day that the human rights defender Shaban Mohammadi has been denied access to telephone calls and rights to visitation since being arbitrary detained on the 30 January 2022. The teachers rights defender is suffering from gastrointestinal complications and relies on medication. His access to medication remains unknown due to the lack of access to the human rights defender. Additionally, he has been denied access to his lawyer and he is reportedly facing charges on “membership in organizations that aim to disrupt national security”.

On 30 January 2022, the house of the human rights defender, Shaban Mohamadi, was raided by Iranian security agents who arrested him after they confiscated two mobile devices. The arrest of the human rights defender occurred in the context of new nationwide protests by teachers, starting on 11 December 2021, and a one-day a two-day sit-in and strike. The main demands of this protest were a proper classification of teachers, the harmonization of retirees’ pensions, and other educational justice requests. Since the beginning of the new school year in September, teachers have organised several protests and rallies across Iran.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned about the arbitrary detention of Shaban Mohammadi, and believes that he is being detained as a result of his legitimate and peaceful human rights work in defence of teachers’ rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association in Iran.

#### **Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Iran to:**

1. Immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Shaban Mohammadi;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Shaban Mohammadi, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the ‘Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment’, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
3. Ensure Shaban Mohammadi is granted his legitimate right to access to his lawyer and to his essential belongings;

4. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Iran and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 5: “For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels: (a) To meet or assemble peacefully” and Article 12 (2): “The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threat, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson

Executive Director