

**DUBLIN**

Front Line Defenders – Head Office
First Floor, Avoca Court
Temple Road, Blackrock
Co. Dublin, A94 R7W3, Ireland

info@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +353 1 212 3750
fax +353 1 212 1001

BRUSSELS

Front Line Defenders – EU Office
Square Marie-Louise 72
1000 Brussels
Belgium

euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +32 2 230 9383
fax +32 2 230 0028

6 July 2022

Iran: Sentencing of the human rights defender Vida Rabbani

On 29 June 2022, woman human rights defender, **Vida (Vahideh) Rabbani** was informed that Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court has sentenced her to five years imprisonment on the charge of “insulting the sacred,” four years imprisonment on the charge of “gathering and colluding to act against national security,” and one year imprisonment on the charge of “propaganda activities against the state.” The instances mentioned for these charges include reporting on human rights violations and social media activities.

[Vida \(Vahideh\) Rabbani](#) is a woman human rights defender, social activist, journalist and a member of the Tehran Journalists Association. She graduated with a degree in political science from the University of Tehran and as a journalist she has worked for the promotion of socio-political rights especially in the context of freedom of peaceful assembly free elections, opposition to the death penalty and compulsory hijab in Iran.

On 29 June 2022, the woman human rights defender, Vida Rabbani was informed that Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court has sentenced her to five years imprisonment on the charge of “insulting the sacred,” four years imprisonment on the charge of “gathering and colluding to act against national security,” and one year imprisonment on the charge of “propaganda activities against the state.” Under Article 134 of the Islamic Penal Code, the sentence of five years in prison is the most severe available. The verdict issued by Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court has suspended two years of the five years sentence, on condition that the human rights defender acquires permission from the Department of Implementation of the Sentence before travelling outside Iran; practising any relevant professional activities relevant to the above charges including in social media or attending political meetings; and announcing any change of address of residence and profession to the judiciary body overseeing the verdict.

In November 2019, the woman human rights defender was arrested for protesting against the killing of people protesting against the sudden increase of petrol prices that same month. During interrogations she was questioned in regard to inviting people to gather to protest. She was also questioned about a report she wrote on the protests after Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) admitted shooting down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 in January 2020, killing all 176 civilians on board. She was released on the same day. Almost a year later, in December 2020, she was arrested again by the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence Services and was detained for a month while being interrogated in solitary confinement.

Front Line Defenders expresses grave concerns about the sentencing of woman human rights defender Vida Rabbani and believes she is being targeted as a result of her legitimate civil society activities and peaceful human rights work in defence of the right to freedom of assembly, free elections and women’s rights in Iran.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Iran to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally quash all charges against woman human rights defender Vida Rabbani;

2. Adhere to the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), where as a party to the ICCPR, Iran is “obliged to respect, protect and fulfil the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,” especially Articles 21 and 22 of the ICCPR, which provide for the obligations to respect the rights to peaceful assembly and association;
3. 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.