



Conservatives Condemn the Execution of Navid Afkari in Iran

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa – The Honourable Michael Chong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement on the execution of Iranian national wrestling champion, Navid Afkari:

“Conservatives condemn in the strongest possible terms the Iranian government's execution of Navid Afkari, a national wrestling champion. We believe that this is a gross violation of human rights, adding to a long list of human rights violations by the Iranian government.

“Mr. Afkari was executed on September 12th, purportedly for the murder of a security guard. However, all credible observers believe that real reason for his detention, torture, and execution was his participation in anti-government protests in 2018. Independent human rights organizations also believe that Mr. Afkari's trial fell short of international standards and the confession that had been entered as evidence against him was obtained under severe torture. Afkari was prevented from visitation with his family prior to his death, as required under Iranian law.

“The torture and killing of Mr. Afkari for his exercise of free expression and assembly is a gross violation of human rights, and violation of several of Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party.

“We call on the Iranian government to allow an independent investigation of Mr. Afkari's case and prosecute those responsible for his unjust and illegal execution, no matter their rank.

“We also call upon the Trudeau government to stand with the people of Iran who have called for freedom and democracy. We call on Mr. Trudeau's government to impose Magnitsky sanctions on Iranian officials responsible for gross human rights violations. We also call on the Trudeau government to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization, as the House of Commons called for in a motion overwhelmingly adopted in June 2018, a motion which Mr. Trudeau voted for.”

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