

I am Mona Silavi from the Ahwazi Arab community in Iran. Statelessness is not a particular problem for my community, however, in Iran, women rely on their male guardians to obtain official identification documents. For example, women cannot travel or receive passports without their male guardians' permission. Additionally, Irani women cannot transfer their nationality to their husband or children, which makes them stateless by de facto, if male guardians decide to prevent them from this right.

Women whose male guardians are missing are also impacted by this situation, especially when the guardian is a victim of enforced disappearance. My mother, for instance, cannot access her passport since my father has involuntarily disappeared.

I would like to use this opportunity to address the Iranian government again to demand that they disclose the fate of my father, Yousef son of Abass Silavi, who is a victim of enforced disappearance in Iran by the revolutionary guards since November 2009.

I exhausted all national and international mechanisms in search of my father. I spoke to two Iranian officials in Brussels at the European Parliament, including Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Sajjad Pour, and Mr. Aladin Broujerdi, Head of National Security Committee at the Iranian Parliament. With the help of the European Parliament members, I asked the Iranian ambassador to the European Union about the fate and whereabouts of my father. To this day, I have consistently received the same answer that my father is not in an Iranian prison.

This is not an answer!

After nine years, my family deserves a clear answer of what happened to my father, an Ahwazi Arab Iranian citizen. The Iranian government is responsible for the security of its citizens.

I ask the Iranian government to end the unjust imprisonment of my father, and to carry out a thorough investigation that clarifies his exact whereabouts. I also ask the Iranian government to provide my mother with a passport, which is her right and is protected under Iran's international obligations.