



Over 20 organisations demand the acquittal of Homayoun Sabetara - Online panel for questions on 22.03.24

[Berlin, Thessaloniki] - One month before the start of Homayoun Sabetara's appeal trial, on 22.4.2024, over 20 organizations are calling for his freedom. In 2022, Homayoun Sabetara was found guilty of alleged smuggling and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Homayoun Sabetara shares a fate with currently over 2,700 People on the Move who have been charged with and imprisoned on smuggling charges in Greece alone.

After more than two years of dehumanizing treatment and unfair imprisonment, Homayoun Sabetara will stand trial again on 22 April in Thessaloniki to demand justice. His daughter Mahtab Sabetara, will stand alongside him, protesting her father's innocence. Mahtab Sabetara initiated the #FreeHomayoun campaign to spotlight the EU's harsh immigration policies and the absence of compliance with human rights.

"Two years without adequate medical treatment for a man with a history in cancer, without decent food or sufficient drinking water, are a violation of human rights in any situation." says Mahtab Sabetara, the daughter of Homayoun, about the prison situation in Greece. "It has become clear that my father has been made a criminal by the European migration governance, when the only thing he wanted was to be with his children."

The support of over 20 organisations for the present Joint Statment undelines the grave injustices the systematic and arbitrary criminalization of People on the Move entails. These strategies highlight the harrowing reality that innocent people are increasingly being targeted by political agendas and subjected to arbitrary judicial action under the guise of migration control. The signing organisations call on the public to pay attention to these cases.

For ongoing developments, the campaign #FreeHomayoun will hold an online panel on 22 March at 11am (Greek time). All media is welcome to participate and submit questions. For the direct access, please register under nodrivernosurvivor@systemli.org.

Speakers at the panel on 22 March

- Mahtab Sabetara, founder of the campaign #FreeHomayoun
- Dimitris Choulis, lawyer at Human Rights Legal Project Samos
- Julia Winkler, political scientist from borderline europe e. V.
- Fotini Lambridi, Journalist

As we are waiting for the trial to start, we unite our voices and demand Homayoun's acquittal! Migration is not a crime! Free all criminalized People on the Move!