Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi

C/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN

Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28

1209 Geneva

Switzerland

Dear Mr. Ebrahim Raisi,

Eight conservationists who have been detained in Tehran’s Evin prison are awaiting a court verdict following a grossly unfair trial.

Niloufar Bayani, Houman Jowkar, Morad Tahbaz, and Taher Ghadirian have been charged with “corruption on earth” and could be sentenced to death. Amirhossein Khaleghi, Sepideh Kashani, and Abdolreza Kouhpayeh have been charged with espionage and could face 10 years in prison. Sam Rajabi has been charged with offenses including “co-operating with hostile states against the Islamic Republic” and could face 11 years in prison.

Following their arrests, they were held without access to a lawyer and with limited family contact. According to reliable sources, some have displayed signs of torture. Their unfair trial relied almost entirely on “confessions” made under torture and later retracted.

I urge you to release all eight conservationists immediately and unconditionally, as they are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedoms of expression, association, and assembly. Please ensure that, pending their release, they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and are given regular access to their families and lawyers of their own choosing.

Yours sincerely,