

April 21, 2017

U.S. Treasury Department Targets Iranian Human Rights Abuses

On April 13, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned the Tehran Prisons Organization (TPO) and Sohrab Soleimani, a senior official within Iran's State Prison Organization, in connection with serious human rights abuses in Iran. "This action reflects the United States' deep concern regarding the human rights situation in Iran," said the Treasury Department. TPO and Soleimani were specifically designated pursuant to Executive Order 13553 for their roles in human rights abuses committed at the notorious Evin Prison. Iran detains many political prisoners in this facility and subjects them to harsh interrogations, forced confessions, torture, and denial of access to healthcare. "Today's designations highlight our continued support for the Iranian people and demonstrate our commitment to hold the Government of Iran responsible for its continued repression of its own citizens," said Office of Foreign Asset Control Director John E. Smith. "We will continue to identify, call out, and sanction those who are responsible for serious human rights abuses in Iran." According to the Treasury Department, these sanctions are fully consistent with U.S. obligations under the Iran nuclear agreement, which came into effect in January 2016.

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