

28. May 2008 Stockholm / Sweden

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, Head of the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Iran

CC: His Excellency UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moons

From:

Members of the Swedish Parliament of the Liberal Party (Folkpartiet Liberalerna), its affiliated organizations and related departments.

Your Excellency;

We, the members of the Swedish parliament of the liberal party, its affiliated organizations and related departments express our deepest concern about the continuation of hangings, willful and unjustified apprehensions and imprisonment of people of Iran, in addition to worsening general health conditions of the prisoners and lack of necessary and basic medical attentions for the prisoners in Iran.

According to Amnesty International, during last year you have had twenty four executions every week and sixty four sentenced to death. Iran has stayed in second place with 317 executions during the last year.

Since Iran is a member state of the United Nations organization and one of the signatories to UN convention on individual, political and civil rights in recognition of the people's rights to freedom of expression, guaranteed by the article 19 of it's charter, which had officially been accepted and ratified by your government, but has been violated by the regime of the Islamic Republic and its judiciary system under your supervision, time and time again. We are strongly and intensely disturbed about the perpetuation of arrests, confinements, killings and some suspicious death inside prisons of innocent individuals for peacefully exercising their basic rights to freedom of speech and freedom of expression. These rights are inseparable parts of any civilized society throughout the world and Iran with its centuries long culture and as one of the first advocates of human rights in history shall abide by them. Health deterioration of many prisoners, who have been in your custody for years now, is an immense concern of ours. Prisoners like;

Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, Arzhang Davoudi, Abbas Khorsandi, Nasrin Afzali and many others to be named here.

We have been informed that Mr. Tabarzadi, a prominent leader of the 1999 student uprising who spent more than seven years of his life behind the prison bars of the Islamic Republic and was tortured for advocating freedom of expression and exercising his rights, has been arrested and jailed in Evin prison north of Tehran on Sunday Nov.11, 2007. Not only he has been detained against the law, but also he is not allowed any visitors, neither was he permitted to meet with his attorney. In addition, he has been denied basic medical attention while in prison. It is not even clear that for what crime he is being detained against all international and civil laws.

Mr. Abbas Khorsandi, a human rights activist and an advocate of freedom of speech who had been arrested about eight months ago, was just sentenced to eight years of prison without any indictment.

Mr. Arzhang Davoudi is another human rights activist and advocate of democracy in Iran. After spending five years in different IRI prisons and exile, he suddenly was taken to the 2nd

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Alef section of solitary confinement in the IRGC prison compound, which is one of the most dreadful prisons in Iran, few nights ago. There is no word about his well being under these circumstances and no news about his condition

Mr. Ahmad Danesh Pazir, a human rights activist and democracy advocate, was arrested in his home in Tehran on February 12Th, 2008. His house was ransacked and all his notes, computer and personal belongings were taken by the judiciary agents and police. After many weeks of news blackout about him and his condition, we learned that he is being kept in the section 209 of the Evin prison. He has not been seen by any outsider, his family or his attorney since the date of his arrest.

Ms. Nasrin Afzali a women rights advocate, was arrested and sentenced to 10 slashes and six months jail.

Ms. Akram Mahdavi has been in prison more than 4 year. She has a 17 year old son who has epilepsy and his mother during the past 4 year has been able to see him only once. During the past days she has been sentenced to death.

Misters Ehsan Mansouri, Majid Tavakoli and Ahmad Ghasaban, three Amir Kabir students prisoners who has been sentenced to twenty two to thirty months jail. Their family has informed on 10 physical and 9 psychological torture cases which has been acted on them. Misters Adnan Hassanpour and Hiva Boutimar, two Kord Journalists who have been arrested and sentenced to death.

Mr. Yakob Mehrnehad, journalist, web blogger and president of "The association of youths voice of freedom" in an official meeting in the presence of governmental representatives together with his 16 year old brother was arrested. The meeting took place in Zahedan in Balochestan on the 6th of February 2008.

Your Excellency, Mr. Shahroudi, this is only a fraction of the intolerable conditions of the human rights activists, democracy advocates and Women, labors, Teachers, Students, Writers and university professors movements in Iran. These innocent individuals have been facing such intolerable and inhuman acts everyday under Islamic Regime.

The International human rights agencies have many times requested to check upon the conditions and situations of these activists inside the jailhouses of the Islamic Republic, but the IRI and the judiciary branch under your supervision have refused such requests by these concerned organizations and denied them access to the political prisoners of Iran.

We the undersigned are extremely concerned about all political prisoners held in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We ask of you to reconsider their cases order their immediate and unconditional release.

Looking forward to receiving your positive reply,

Birgitta Ohlsson, Member of the Swedish parliament/ Member Committee on Foreign Affairs

Erik Ullenhag, General Secretary of the Liberal Party

Cecilia Wigström, Member of the Swedish parliament, from the Liberal Party

Metso Johansson, Chairman of the Liberal Youth of Sweden.

Anita Brodén, Member of the Swedish parliament, from the Liberal Party

Fred Saberi, President of Iranian International Liberal Association in Sweden

Avni Dervishi, Chairman of International Affairs, Liberal Immigrant Organization

Pär Gustafsson, Charirman of Liberal Student in Sweden,