



BY REGISTERED MAIL

His Excellency Mr Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Presidency
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TEHRAN, **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

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Amsterdam, 25 February 2015

Re: Lawyers Day 2015, 26 February 2015

Mr President!

As one lawyer speaking to the other I have the honour to present you my respect in support of the celebration of Lawyers Day in Iran.

Lawyers for Lawyers is a Dutch organization of lawyers who are concerned about the independence of colleague-lawyers across the world. We don't make judgments of a political nature, but restrict ourselves to assessing the position of lawyers whenever they seem to find themselves in a position caused by discharging of their professional duties. If questions arise with respect to the situation of a specific, individual lawyer we may raise the issue with the Government and/or the Bar Association involved. We question our own Government in the Netherlands on such issues in the same way as we do question Governments abroad.

On the occasion of the Iranian Lawyers Day we would like to share our concerns with respect to seven Iranian Lawyers who currently serve prison sentences in Iranian prisons. These seven lawyers are:

- Mostafa Daneshjo
- Amir Islami
- Farshid Yadollahi
- Afshin Karampoor
- Omid Behroozi
- Mohammad Seifzadeh, and
- Abdolfatah Soltani

We are worried that these lawyers are currently undergoing a prison sentence for reasons that are directly related to their acting as a lawyer in very specific cases, while they would not have been sentenced if they had not been involved in such cases. In other words, we are concerned that the acts of their clients may have been the main reason for them being in jail rather than their own acting as a legal professional.



Mr President, all suspects of all sorts of crimes are entitled to a fair trial. As a lawyer you are - more than anyone else - aware of the fair trial guarantees provided by United Nations legal instruments to citizens living in States that are a Party to the UN International Covenant Civil and Political Rights (Article 14). For the Lawyers Profession, this fundamental right has been further elaborated in the UN's Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers which document was unanimously adopted in 1990 in Havana, Cuba.

This Document, among other things, states the following:

“Guarantees for the functioning of lawyers

16. Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad;

and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

17. Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

18. Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.”

It is against this background that we have the honor to kindly request you to use the opportunity of the celebration of Iran's Lawyers Day to carefully review the current position of the seven lawyers mentioned in this letter. We would greatly appreciate your efforts in this respect and we avail ourselves of this opportunity to salute the Iranian People.

We are looking forward to your response to our request.

Please, accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Phou van den Biesen,
President of Lawyers for Lawyers

www.lawyersforlawyers.org