



Muslim Canadian Congress

LE CONGRES MUSULMAN CANADIEN

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May 10, 2006

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada,
Office of the Prime Minister,
80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Re: The arrest in Iran of Canadian citizen, Ramin Jahanbegloo

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

It has been two weeks since Canadian academic Ramin Jahanbegloo was arrested in Teheran and imprisoned in the notorious Evin Jail on charges of espionage.

We understand that your government is looking into this matter, but so far nothing fruitful has emerged as a result of the quiet diplomacy option exercised by External Affairs. Reza Baraheni, former president of PEN Canada and himself a victim of torture by the Teheran regime, has described Evin prison as "one of the most horrendous prisons, in the world."

We are concerned that if pressure is not mounted on the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Ramin Jahanbegloo, his life may be in serious danger. We needn't remind you of the fate of Zahra Kazemi, another Iranian-Canadian who was raped and killed inside Evin prison.

What makes the arrest and detention of Ramin Jahanbegloo more worrisome is the fact that the Iranian Minister of Intelligence who made the announcement of this arrest, is the same person who is alleged to have been involved in the serial killings of the Iranian intellectuals in 1998.

Before it is too late, and Ramin Jahanbegloo becomes one more statistic in the long list of those who have died at the hands of the Iranian government, we urge you to make a personal intervention in this matter and call the Iranian charge d'affaires for an explanation and urge him to guarantee the safety and access to due process for Dr. Jahanbegloo.

If the Iranian government fails to release Ramin Jahanbegloo, we urge the Canadian government to refuse the credentials of the new incoming Iranian Ambassador.

Yours sincerely,

Niaz Salimi
President
Muslim Canadian Congress