

July 4, 2016

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o H.E. Mr. Gholamali Khoshroo  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations  
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Email: [iran@un.int](mailto:iran@un.int)  
Fax: +1 (212) 867-7086

Your Excellency,

We write on behalf of the undersigned Canadian University Faculty Associations to express our grave concern regarding the arrest and detention by Iranian authorities of Dr. Homa Hoodfar, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Since early March 2016, Professor Hoodfar has been subjected to repeated interrogations and accusations of working against the Islamic Republic of Iran, an allegation for which no evidence has been presented. Professor Hoodfar is now being held unjustly in Evin Prison. We are deeply concerned about the conditions under which she is being held and about her physical and mental health.

As faculty associations, our mandate is to promote the professional and collegial interests of all of our members. We are committed to ensuring academic freedom of expression both for our own members and for all scholars throughout the world; we view Professor Hoodfar's incarceration as a direct violation of her academic freedom.

Professor Hoodfar is a renowned anthropologist specializing in gender and family issues in the Middle East. She travelled to Iran earlier this year to visit family and took the opportunity to do some historical and archival research. In early March, just before her scheduled departure, the Iranian authorities raided Prof. Hoodfar's apartment and seized her personal computer, phone, passports, and other items. She was prohibited from leaving Iran and has been interrogated by the Intelligence Unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on multiple occasions, without the presence of her lawyer. The objective of these interrogations appears to be to link her, inappropriately, to anti-state activities.

On Monday, June 6, Professor Hoodfar was summoned for another interrogation and was subsequently arrested. She has since been incarcerated in Evin Prison. Neither her lawyer nor her family have been granted permission to visit her. She experienced a mild stroke last year and now suffers from a rare neurological condition – myasthenia gravis – that requires close medical supervision and medication, and her family has not received confirmation that she has been provided this medicine. We are deeply troubled by the manner in which Professor Hoodfar has been treated, and very worried about her declining health.

Professor Hoodfar has been teaching in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of Concordia University since 1991. Her academic work, on topics including development, public health, refugees, family law, reproductive rights, and gendered electoral politics, has received a great deal of attention and respect due to its rigour and her balanced approach. Professor Hoodfar also has a highly accessible writing style, leading to the wide circulation of her publications and their translation into several languages, including Persian. Unfortunately, her scholarship is now

being linked, incorrectly, to seditious intentions by the Iranian authorities who are using the accessibility of her work, coupled with her affiliation with the organization Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), as justification for her arrest.

Professor Hoodfar's arrest and previous interrogations are violations of Iran's obligations under its constitution. For example, Article 154 of the constitution states: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has as its ideal human felicity throughout human society, and considers the attainment of independence, freedom, and rule of justice and truth to be the right of all people of the world." In addition, Professor Hoodfar's treatment is a violation of the rights of individuals to freedom of thought, opinion, and speech, which are explicitly protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 18, 19, 21), to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a signatory. We therefore call upon the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to uphold the provisions of its constitution and abide by its international covenant commitments, according to which Professor Hoodfar should neither be detained nor prevented from leaving the country. Given her fragile health and what appears to be a politically motivated arrest, we respectfully urge you to bring about her immediate and unconditional release from detention, and dismiss all charges against her.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Ted Stathopoulos, President, Concordia University Faculty Association

Signed on behalf of:

Canadian Association of University Teachers

Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université

Ontario College of Art and Design Faculty Association

Syndicat des professeurs et professeures de l'Université Laval

Trent University Faculty Association

Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association

University of Lethbridge Faculty Association

McGill Association of University Teachers

Faculty Association of the University of Waterloo

Faculty Association of the University of Calgary

Saint Mary's University Faculty Union

Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta

Memorial University Faculty Association

University of King's College Teachers' Association

The University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association

Brescia Faculty Association

University of Victoria Faculty Association

Syndicat des professeures et des professeurs de la Télé-Université

Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

L'Association des professeures et professeurs de l'École nationale d'administration publique

Syndicat des professeurs et professeures de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais

Syndicat des professeurs et professeures de l'Université du Québec à Rimouski

Simon Fraser University Faculty Association

King's University College Faculty Association

Association des bibliothécaires, professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Moncton

Fédération des associations de professeures et professeurs d'université du Nouveau-Brunswick/Federation of New Brunswick Faculty associations

Acadia University Faculty Association

Carleton University Academic Staff Association

CUPE 3902, University of Toronto

University of Manitoba Faculty Association

Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers

Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association

University of Toronto Faculty Association

McMaster University Faculty Association

Association des professeurs et professionnels de l'Université de Saint-Boniface

University of Ontario Institute of Technology Faculty Association

University of Prince Edward Island Faculty Association

Windsor University Faculty Association

Mount Allison Faculty Association

University of Western Ontario Faculty Association

Ryerson Faculty Association

Faculty Association of the University of St. Thomas

Dalhousie Faculty Association

Brock University Faculty Association

Association des professeurs, professeures et bibliothécaires de l'Université Sainte-Anne

University of Winnipeg Faculty Association

Nipissing University Faculty Association

Mt. Saint Vincent University Faculty Association

Canadian Military Colleges Faculty Association

Cape Breton University Faculty Association

St. Francis Xavier Association of University Teachers

University of Regina Faculty Association

Association of Professors of Bishop's University

Faculty Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

St. Thomas More Faculty Union

Royal Roads Faculty Association

Mount Royal Faculty Association,

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of British Columbia

Atlantic School of Theology Faculty Association

Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa

St Jerome's University Academic Staff Association

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers

Algoma University Faculty Association

Lakehead University Faculty Association

Northern Ontario School of Medicine Faculty and Staff Association

cc:

The Honourable Dr. Hassan Rouhani  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o His Excellency, Mr. Gholamali Khoshroo  
Iranian Ambassador and Representative to the United Nations  
Email: [iran@un.int](mailto:iran@un.int)

His Excellency, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
Head of the Judiciary  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh  
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave. (south of Serah-e Jomhuri)  
Tehran 1316814737  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [info@dadiran.ir](mailto:info@dadiran.ir)

Her Excellency, Ms. Shahindokht Molaverdi  
Vice President for Women and Family Affairs  
No. 162, Nejatollahi  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [info@women.gov.ir](mailto:info@women.gov.ir)

His Excellency, Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Imam Khomeini Avenue  
P.O.Box: 1136914811  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [Info@mfa.gov.ir](mailto:Info@mfa.gov.ir)

Original sent by regular mail.

--

FREE HOMA NOW

<http://www.homahoodfar.org>