



January 25, 2008

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Iran
Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Dear President Ahmadinejad,

On behalf of the over one-half million university and college students in Canada, I am writing to express extreme concern over the imprisonment and recent repression of students and others in Iran leading up to and since National Students' Day.

We are deeply concerned with reports that the arrested students have been subjected to torture and cruel treatment, and are alarmed to hear that at least two prisoners have died in custody. We have also heard reports that the students are facing false charges that have been fabricated in order to give the appearance of legitimacy. In addition, many students have yet to be in contact with their families and are facing detention for exercising a simple human right: the freedom of expression and opinion.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states that all persons shall have the right to freedom of expression as well as the right to peacefully assemble. The detention of students and other political prisoners in Iran is a severe violation of their human rights, and one that students in Canada do not take lightly.

Students in Canada are appalled by the actions of the Iranian government. We urge you to immediately and unconditionally release all students recently arrested and other political prisoners currently held in custody, and ensure their safe return to their families. In addition, we urge the Iranian government to act in accordance with international law by taking measures to protect the human rights of all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Amanda Aziz
National Chairperson

cc. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Prime Minister Stephen Harper