

Open Letter to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
CC: Chief Justice, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

Mr. President Ahmadinejad:

We the undersigned appeal for the immediate, unconditional release of prominent scholar and public intellectual, Dr. Ramin Jahanbegloo who was arrested at Tehran's international airport in late April 2006. On 6 May, Minister of Intelligence, Hojatoleslam Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, confirmed Dr. Jahanbegloo's arrest, implying that he is being held in custody for "having contacts with foreigners." For nearly three weeks, however, Dr. Jahanbegloo has been detained without a court order, official charges, legal representation and the privilege of family visitation--all basic requirements for the due process of law. Dr. Jahanbegloo's arrest and continued detention clearly violate the Islamic Republic's domestic laws and Iran's international legal obligations, particularly as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

News of Dr. Jahanbegloo's arrest has reverberated among academicians and other intellectuals worldwide. A philosopher committed to the principle of non-violence, Dr. Jahanbegloo has worked tirelessly to foster cultural understanding and dialogue between Iranians and other societies. Significantly, as director of the Cultural Research Bureau in Tehran, he has conveyed to myriad readers, students and scholars the complexity of Iranian civilization and its rich contributions to humanity. Dr. Jahanbegloo's effort to illuminate and share Iran's culture and history with others has earned him deep respect and admiration among both intellectuals and laypeople from diverse corners of the globe. Not surprisingly, those who follow his work, both in Iran and abroad, are shocked and disappointed by this unlawful treatment of Dr. Jahanbegloo. Scholars traveling to and from Iran are especially concerned about this matter and contend Dr. Jahanbegloo's arrest will deter such exchanges and scientific research.

In short, we believe Dr. Jahanbegloo's detainment demands your intervention as soon as possible to resolve this matter properly, ensuring his prompt release.

Respectfully,

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3. Fariba Adelkhah, Directeur de recherché, Centre d'études et de recherches internationales, Sciencespo Paris
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6. Mahasti Afshar, Director of Endowment, Los Angeles Philharmonic
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9. Kazem Alamdari, Professor of Sociology, California State University

10. Nozar Alaolmolki, Professor and Chair of Political Science, Hiram College
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13. Leila Alieva, Political Analyst and Director of Center for Strategic and International Studies, Baku, Azerbaijan
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16. Camron Michael Amin, Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan-Dearborn
17. Fariba Amini, President, Non-Profit Foundation for Educational Progress
18. Masserat Amir-Ebrahimi, Independent Social Science Researcher, Tehran
19. Hooshang Amirahmadi, Professor and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Rutgers University
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22. Maboud Ansari, Professor of Sociology, William Paterson University
23. Kwame Anthony Appiah, University Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University
24. Celia Applegate, Professor of History, University of Rochester
25. Jonathan Arac, Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
26. Said Amir Arjomand, Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Stony Brook; President of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
27. Kamran Arjomand, Middle East Special Collection, State and University Library of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany
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235. Hamid Marjaee, NGO volunteer and former board member of FoodShare, GreenSaver, East Toronto Green Community, and Regional Council of the Central YMCA, Canada
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320. Thomas M. Ricks, Independent Scholar, Iranian Studies

321. Andras Riedlmayer, Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture, Aga Khan Program, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University; President, Turkish Studies Association
322. Monica M. Ringer, Professor of History and Asian Languages and Civilizations, Amherst College
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332. David Rothenberg, Professor of Philosophy, New Jersey Institute of Technology
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341. Elli Safari, Film producer and director, The Netherlands
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351. Stephen Schlesinger, Director of World Policy Institute, New School University
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