



Date: February 23, 2016  
No: 560-LR-8012

**His Excellency Ban-Ki Moon**  
**Secretary General of United Nations**  
**The United Nations**  
**New York, NY 10017**

Re: Human Rights Violations by the Theocratic Regime in Iran

Your Excellency,

I join my fellow compatriots in demanding that authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately release the eighteen civil rights activists arrested in front of the notorious Evin prison. The international community must remind the theocratic regime of its moral and international obligations to respect the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

On Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, eighteen civil rights activists were publicly lashed front of Evin prison. These civil rights activists have been wrongfully convicted and sentenced to 91 days in prison and 74 lashes after being accused of allegedly disturbing public order through illegal gatherings. According to the Human Rights in Iran website[1], these civil rights activists are: Simin Ayvaz Zadeh, Reza Malek, Hashem Zeinali, Ehsan Kheibar, Adel Arougi, Mohsen Haseli, Mohsen Shoja, Khadijeh(Leila) Mirghafari, Azam Najafi, Parvin Soleimani, Shermin Yamani, Sarah Daei, Esmail Hosseinin Kooch Kamari, Arshiar Hemati, Farideh Tousi, Zahra Modareszadeh, Parvin Babaii, and Ali Babaii. We strongly condemn any form of torture, particularly that of public lashing, a truly barbaric act.

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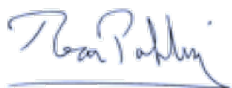
[1] [www.humanrightsiniran.org/1394/9372/](http://www.humanrightsiniran.org/1394/9372/)

Hashem Zeinali, the father of Saeed Zeinali, was also among those arrested, simply for inquiring about the fate of his son. Saeed was arrested at his home without any apparent cause sixteen years ago. The political prisoners spend their days and nights in jails living under unbearable and inhumane conditions, without any support for ongoing or new medical conditions.

Guided by our strong belief in secularism, the Iran National Council denounces the despicable ongoing human rights violations committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the name of religion. Iranians across the political spectrum envision a secular and democratic Iran where they can live freely amongst their fellow compatriots without the paralyzing fear of religious and political persecution and enjoy equal rights under the law, with adherence to the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I thank you sincerely for your consideration and offer my unconditional assistance on these urgent matters.

Yours sincerely,



Reza Pahlavi

President of the Iran National Council, for Free Elections

CC:

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