



Muslim Canadian Congress

LE CONGRES MUSULMAN CANADIEN

12 Millington Street, Toronto, Ontario M4X 1W8 * (416) 928-0477 * E-mail: muslimcongress@canada.com

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Mr. Abbas Assemi
Charge d'Affaires
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
245 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2K2
Canada

Your Excellency,

It has been two weeks since Ramin Jahanbegloo was picked up by your government's agents in Teheran and imprisoned in the notorious Evin prison.

I write to you, not only in my capacity as President of the Muslim Canadian Congress, but also as an Iranian-Canadian who continues to witness with distress a litany of human rights violations in the country of my birth, and now has to deal with the disappearance of a prominent Iranian Canadian.

We fear for the life of Ramin Jahanbegloo. Our fears are not unfounded since we know the fate of another Iranian-Canadian, Zahra Kazemi, who was raped and killed while in Iranian custody.

The Muslim community and the Iranian diaspora in Canada, urges you to intervene and arrange for the speedy release of Ramin Jahanbegloo. It is sad that human rights violations, arbitrary arrests and torture are done in the name of Islam at a time when we are fighting Islamophobia in North America for the sake of our communities.

The case of Ramin Jahanbegloo is just the tip of the iceberg. Today, Mansoor Osanloo is languishing in a jail since January for the 'crime' of organizing the Tehran Bus Drivers strike. He is only one of many other political prisoners rotting in Iranian jails. They include Dr. Nasser Zarafshan, the scholar and human rights advocate who represented the families of assassinated writers, Mohammad Jaffar Poyandeh and Mohammad Mokhtari. He also represented the children of Daryoush Frouhar and Parvaneh Eskandari, the political and human right activists, who were beheaded.

As Muslim Canadians we are outraged that the Islamic Republic of Iran would invoke Islam to inflict so much pain on its own citizens while posturing to the rest of the world as a beacon of anti-imperialism and national sovereignty.

We demand the immediate release of Ramin Jahanbegloo and all political prisoners in Iran along with an immediate halt to the executions of men and women on the death row

Yours sincerely,

Niaz Salimi
President