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American Physical Society

14 April 2017

Dr. Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

I write to you as President of the American Physical Society (APS) regarding several educators from the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE) who were arrested and detained in May 2011. APS is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the advancement of physics. The Society is the largest organization of physicists in the United States with over 54,000 members worldwide. The APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS) is charged with monitoring the rights of scientists, to insure that they may freely pursue the knowledge that can be of benefit to their countries as well as to the global community and humanity.

Since 2011, CIFS has closely followed the situation concerning the educators of the BIHE. In March 2012, CIFS wrote to the Iranian government to urge it to reconsider its policy of barring Baha'is from pursuing education and to release the imprisoned BIHE educators, many of whom have research and teaching experience so vital for providing higher education to Baha'i youth.

In December 2014, CIFS reiterated this request in a letter to His Excellency Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani. The committee emphasized again that Iran's Baha'i community has a lot to offer to Iran and Iran has much to gain from a population fully free to pursue higher education.

In line with your promises to improve the human rights situation in Iran and your pledge to end religious discrimination, APS appeals to Your Excellency to unconditionally release from prison the following educators who are still detained:

- Foad Moghaddam (Medicine)
- Nasim Bagheri Tari (Psychology)
- Kayvan Rahimian (Psychology)
- Payman Koushk-Baghi (Computer Engineering)
- Azita Rafizadeh (Computer Engineering)
- Azízu'Iláh Samandarí (Mathematics, Physics, Computer networking)

Sincerely,

Laura H. Greene

Cc: Fakhreddin Ahmadi-Danesh-Ashtiani, Minister of Education, Islamic Republic of Iran
Mohammad Javad Larijani, Secretary, High Council for Human Rights, Judiciary of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
Gholam Ali Khoshroo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic
of Iran to the United Nations