



American
Physical
Society

One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3844
Tel: (301) 209-3269
Fax: (301) 209-0867
www.aps.org

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26 September 2014

President Hassan Rouhani
c/o Ambassador of Iran to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
662 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Fax: (212) 867-7086
iran@un.int

Dear President Rouhani,

I write to you on behalf of the American Physical Society (APS) to request special medical aid for Omid Kokabee, a member of APS who is serving a ten-year sentence in Evin prison and whose health is in danger. The APS is a non-governmental entity and the largest organization of physicists in the United States with over 50,000 members worldwide.

Mr. Kokabee was a physics Ph.D. student, studying at the University of Texas, who was visiting his family in Iran and attempting to return to his studies, when he was detained in Iran in January 2011. He was sentenced to ten years imprisonment on politically related charges in the court of Abolghasem Salavati in May 2012. You are likely aware that Mr. Kokabee's case has garnered considerable interest and controversy in and outside of Iran.

Recently, APS has been informed of the continual decline of Omid Kokabee's health to the point that his medical situation can degenerate to permanent impairment. Among the ailments affecting him are:

1. Suffering from fast heart palpitations, shortened breath, heaviness on the left side of his chest and a migratory joint pain, which may be an indication of a heart dysfunction.
2. Chronic stomach problems, including continual acidity and infections. These issues have likely caused the loss of 6 kilograms in the last 6 months to his already frail physical frame. This concern is compounded by a history of stomach cancer in his family.
3. Constant urinary and kidney problems. He has passed numerous kidney stones during his time in detention, and he is currently in pain from the latest stone in his urinary system. His recent transfer to a quarantine section of Evin prison has prevented his needed exercise that helps alleviate some of the pain.

4. Spontaneous bleeding of his gums, hair loss and continual broken nails all of which are symptoms of malnutrition that weakens his immune system and slows down the healing process of his body.
5. Loss of four teeth during his imprisonment with four more in need of urgent repair.

Because of these dire circumstances, we request that the government of Iran enable a confinement where Mr. Kokabee can be in official custody in the home of his family, where he can receive the needed personal and physical care and be brought to the appropriate medical centers to properly test, diagnose and treat his numerous medical problems.

We understand that a medical furlough is quite common for non-violent prisoners with severe medical conditions. I am sure that you agree with us that Omid Kokabee's confinement should not end in the permanent loss of his health or his life. Hence, we hope that the Iranian government will support a medical furlough for him, so that his long term health can be restored.

We would be very appreciative if you would inform us that you have received this letter and that you are giving our request serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Malcolm R. Beasley
APS President