

24 August 2015

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 1007  
Facsimile: [REDACTED]

**VIA POST & FACSIMILE**

*RE: Request for Diplomatic Action on Behalf of Imprisoned Pastor Saeed Abedini*

Your Excellency,

Nearly three years ago, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran imprisoned my husband, Saeed Abedini, solely for peacefully exercising his faith in private homes. Saeed is a dual American-Iranian citizen and a Christian Pastor from Boise, Idaho. He has violated no law of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In July of 2012, Saeed took a trip to Iran to put in place the final board member for an orphanage that he was building outside the city of Rasht. Iran's Revolutionary Guards put him under house arrest on 28 July 2012 after they forcefully took him off of a bus. On September 26, 2012, Saeed was taken to Evin Prison, where he was detained on charges of attempting to undermine the national security of Iran by peacefully having met with Christians in private homes during the early 2000s. In January 2013, Saeed underwent a trial in Iran's Revolutionary Courts that lacked basic standards of fairness, and Iran convicted and sentenced him to eight years. Saeed has endured severe abuse in Iran's prisons and as a result has been medically diagnosed with needing two separate surgeries for internal injuries, surgeries that the Iranian government has to date withheld.

In 2013 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that Saeed had been deprived of his liberty for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of religion, belief, and association (a Category II arbitrary detention) (enclosed). The Working Group also found that Saeed has been discriminated against on the basis of his religion (a Category V arbitrary detention) and that he was detained in 2012 without a fair trial (a Category III arbitrary detention). For these violations of international norms and standards, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains unapologetic and unwilling to pursue a just remedy.

With the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly quickly approaching, I respectfully request that you engage directly with the Iranian delegation and President Rouhani while they are in New York and call on the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Saeed immediately. I am willing and able to fly to New York to meet with you and to attend any meeting you are able to convene on Saeed's behalf.

Thank you for any assistance that you can give in achieving my husband's return home to the United States and his safe return to our family.

Respectfully,



Naghmeh Abedini



*Enclosures*