

20 August 2015

Ambassador Gholam Ali Khoshroo
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic
of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

RE: Request to Meet with President Rouhani and the Iranian Delegation in New York

Your Excellency:

With the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly quickly approaching, I write to request a meeting with members of the Iranian delegation while they are in New York. By way of introduction, my name is Naghmeh Abedini. I am the wife of Saeed Abedini, an Iranian-American imprisoned in the Islamic Republic of Iran for nearly three years.

My husband has great love and respect for Iran, and this is why, during the three years before his imprisonment, our family had committed to opening an orphanage for young street children. When Saeed returned to Iran in 2012, as he had done so many times, it was to put in place the final board member, a devoted Shia Muslim from Qom. Though we have lived in the United States with our children since 2005, we have been committed to serving some of Iran's most needy.

Yet, for the last three years, our family has greatly suffered in the absence of my husband and my children's father. Saeed is currently being held in Rajaei Shahr prison in Gohardasht. Saeed is not a criminal. Saeed is not a threat to Iran or the stability of its government. Saeed is a husband and a father. Saeed is suffering from internal injuries incurred during his time in prison that Iranian doctors have indicated need surgery and hospitalization, but which he has not yet received.

Over the last three years, numerous nations have raised Saeed's case with the Islamic Republic of Iran, including President Obama, who discussed the case with President Rouhani during their first phone call on September 27, 2013. Many nations have raised his case as an example of Iran's violation of human rights and restrictions on religious minorities. With the world's eyes focused on the Islamic Republic of Iran, I hope you will seek opportunities to improve the world's long-held perception of Iran as a violator of human rights.

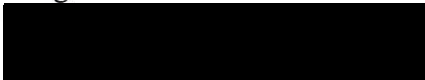
The purpose of the United Nations General Assembly is to facilitate discussion and decision-making that advances peace and security around the world. Yet, my husband remains in prison for nothing more than the peaceful exercise of his faith. Therefore, it is with the same spirit of diplomacy and decency that governs the annual session of the UN General Assembly that I respectfully request a meeting for myself and my legal counsel with President Rouhani, Foreign Minister Zarif, and yourself to discuss Saeed's situation. I will make myself available at your convenience.

Thank you for considering this request and for any efforts you make to reunite our family. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,



Naghmeh Abedini



Enclosures

cc: President Hassan Rouhani
Foreign Minister Javad Zarif