

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency
Mr. Hassan Rouhani
via Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of a group of nine members of the Christian community “Church of Iran,” who were arrested last February. This group of Christians has been accused of endangering national security and of “promoting Zionism.”

All they have done, however, is to exercise their right to freely choose their faith and to tell others about it. On payment of a large bail, seven of the detainees were allowed to leave prison in March, while Shahrouz Eslamdous and Abdolreza Matthias Haghnejad were denied this possibility. The court case against them began last July. Although the Christians in Iran belong to a recognized minority, the responsible judge, the Honorable Mohammed Moghiseh, called the Bible a forgery. On October 13, both Christians were sentenced to five years in prison.

Please permit me, your Excellency, to remind you that the Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified “The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” (ICCPR) – a covenant binding under international law - which also guarantees full freedom of religion.

I therefore take the liberty, dear Mr. President, to beseech you to advocate the immediate unconditional release of Shahrouz Eslamdous and Abdolreza Matthias Haghnejad.

Most respectfully,