

Ambassador Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh
The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the four imprisoned men Mr Yousef Nadarkhani, Mr Mohammadreza Omidi, Mr Mohammadali (Yasser) Mossayebzadeh and Mr Zaman (Saheb) Fadaie Siyah-Estelkhi. Each of these men were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment - convicted of house church activities and 'promoting Zionist Christianity'. In addition, Mr Nadarkhani and Mr Omidi have been sentenced to exile in Nik Shahr and Borazjan for two years.

Mr Nadarkhani, Mr Omidi, Mr Mossayebzadeh and Mr Fadaei have committed no crimes and represent no threats to the Republic of Iran. The cases against these four men can only be based on their personal religious beliefs. Consequently, actions against them violate international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party.

Generally, the increasing harassment of Christians the past years is deeply disturbing. Converts to Christianity are subjected to particularly harsh persecution and lengthy imprisonment, solely based on their practice of Christian faith. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights gives people the right to "have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice". Persecution of Iranian citizens based on their faith, including their conversion to another religion, represent a grave injustice and a severe breach of their human rights.

Mr Nadarkhani, Mr Omidi, Mr Mossayebzadeh and Mr Fadaei will appear before a judge in Teheran on December 13. I humbly petition your intervention in these cases to ensure that:

- The basic human rights of Mr Nadarkhani, Mr Omidi, Mr Mossayebzadeh and Mr Fadaei are respected.
- These four Iranian citizens will be given a fair hearing in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Because their cases are unfounded, they shall be acquitted and released immediately.
- Believers of all religions in Iran can practice their faith, including converts.

I appreciate, in advance, any actions you might take to promote the freedom of religion and belief including a just outcome for these men.

Yours sincerely,