

FREE THE DOCS!

Alaei Day 2009 – How to Use this Action Guide

Welcome to Alaei Day!

Thank you for being a part of Alaei Day 2009: we hope that through our combined efforts on May 12, we can have a great impact on the appeal for the release of Kamiar and Arash. Events will be taking place around the world, with vigils being held at embassies in more than 15 countries internationally and on campuses throughout the US.

With this Action Guide you can find all the information and materials that you need to:

- Put together an action group for Alaei Day
- Plan your event
- Publicize your vigil
- Tell the world about your involvement about Alaei Day
- Join the ongoing campaign to free the Alaei Brothers

Your Action Guide:

Vigil Guide: information to plan and implement your vigil.

Embassy letter: letter to send to the Iranian Embassy in your country.

Vigil poster: use to publicize the details of your vigil.

Alaei Day poster: use to further publicize Alaei Day and the petition.

Blog logo: use as blogger image with web posts about Alaei Day

Facebook profile logo: use for facebook profile picture on Alaei Day (ask all your participants to use it)

Sample text: text for emails/web posts/newsletters.

Press releases & media advisory: releases need to be sent out on May 5th, 11th and 12th to inform local media of your event (you can also find editable versions of these documents on the website and with your action guide).

Talking points: use to answer press questions and for meeting with embassy officials.

Petition & sign-on: use to collect signatures for the petition and get contact details from people at your vigil.

1 pager: distribute to the public during your vigil.

Photo upload: instructions to upload photo and video from your vigil.

If you have any questions about using the action guide or other materials, you can email alaeiday@phrusa.org to get more information.

REMEMBER the press releases are available as editable documents - but you need to fill in your information (look for the red highlighting).

FREE THE DOCS!

Holding an IranFreeTheDocs Vigil at the Iranian Embassy – May 12

Plan your event now:

- Pick a time when you can get a good turnout (during Embassy opening hours)
- Visit the location so you know where you can assemble (check with local authorities about permissions)
- Recruit your membership to spread the word and commit to signing-up others
- Approach co-sponsors (community groups or other organizations interested in AIDS/human rights issues)
- Publicize the vigil (radio, email, facebook, Universities, hospitals, community/cultural groups)
- Approach figureheads (contact Iranian personalities/sportspersons/academics to support your event)
- Contact media (local and national newspapers, local radio and television stations, University press)
- Organize materials (assign people to coordinate signs, megaphone, flyers, stickers, sign-up sheets)

Planning information is available online at

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/students/toolbox/publicize.html>

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/students/toolbox/plan-an-event.html>

Media Outreach:

- You will need a media spokesperson and 'media wranglers' to handle media at the vigil
- Radio, TV, and print media need to be contacted in person or by phone at least a week before
- You need 'phone contact information for journalists to find them at the vigil so ask for cell numbers
- Send press release to preferred email/fax details for media on May 5 (one week before the vigil)
- Send out media advisory (May 11 and May 12)

Your vigil:

- Have a schedule planned ahead of time (so you know how long it will take and what will happen)
- Make sure the people coordinating materials will be at the vigil location ahead of time
- Make sure everyone brings their phone (to contact each other in case of problems)
- Use a high-profile supporter, community leader, or organizational head to 'host' the vigil
- Designate someone to be vigil manager (to ensure that all speakers have arrived; deal with problems)
- Designate vigil photographer (encourage everyone else to bring cameras/phones)

<http://drop.io/iranfreethedocs>

Upload vigil photos to our drop site so that we can add it to photos from other vigils around the world!

Sample agenda:

- A) Welcome
- B) Kick-off
- C) PHR Press Statement
- D) Sign the petition
- E) Thanks
- F) Media
- G) Photo petition

**TREATING
AIDS IS NOT
A CRIME**

IRANFREETHEDOCS.ORG

> Iran **sentenced** Doctors Kamiar and Arash Alaei, two prominent HIV/AIDS **physicians** to years in a Tehran prison on **false charges**

> On May 12 at _____

at _____ join us as we say:

IRAN, FREE THE DOCS



Dr. Kamiar Alaei



Dr. Arash Alaei

“As a fellow Muslim, I appeal to the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the name of Allah the Most Merciful and Compassionate to release these brothers immediately.” Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman, amfAR’s TREAT Asia committee chair

> The Drs. Alaei are HIV/AIDS treatment pioneers in Iran; now they’re in jail for their groundbreaking work. It’s time to tell Iran that **treating AIDS is not a crime.**

> Join _____ at _____
_____ for a **vigil** urging the Iranian government to **release these doctors.**

> Visit **IranFreeTheDocs.org** to sign the petition and for more information.

IRAN FREE



THE DOCS.ORG

TREATING AIDS IS NOT A CRIME

May 12, 2009

Dear Ambassador,

I'm writing to you out of deep concern for Iranian brothers Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei. The Drs. Alaei are international leaders in AIDS prevention and treatment who have been detained in Iran's Evin Prison since June 2008. They were tried and convicted on charges of "communicating with enemy governments" in January 2009. These charges are unjust and unfounded, and (your organization) urges the Iranian Government to release the Alaeis immediately. Each day that the Alaeis are behind bars is another day that Iranian public health suffers.

Kamiar and Arash learned on Jan. 20, 2009 that they had been convicted and sentenced to terms of three and six years respectively, to be served at Evin Prison. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

The Drs. Alaei helped develop Iran's first harm-reduction programs, which won recognition as models of best practice by the World Health Organization. Over the past decade, they have supported a network of clinics in 67 cities and 57 prisons to provide treatment for STI infections and drug addiction. The Alaei brothers have worked with Iranian religious leaders to ensure support for education campaigns on HIV transmission. They also developed the *Global Health in the Middle East and Central Asia* training program for doctors in Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and other neighboring countries in order to improve HIV/AIDS treatment in the region.

As part of their work, Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei spoke at international global health and HIV/AIDS conferences, and were recognized by the BBC and other international press for their AIDS and public health work. On January 19th, Dr. Kamiar and Arash Alaei were sentenced to three and six years, respectively, for "communications with an enemy government" and seeking to overthrow the Iranian government under article 508 of Iran's Islamic Penal Code. The government based these charges on their travel to the aforementioned international health events. Such allegations hurt the future of public health and AIDS treatments, two fields in which innovation hinges on collaboration.

If the doctors are engaged in any war, it's the battle against HIV/AIDS. Collaborating with colleagues across borders to find better treatments for complex diseases is not a crime - it's good medicine. World renowned scientific journals including the Lancet, Nature and the British Medical Journal, have emphasized the critical need for open scientific and medical dialogue, and have condemned the arrest of the Drs. Alaei as undermining public health worldwide.

Thousands of medical leaders, Nobel laureates and concerned citizens from around the world have already called for the Alaei's release. With this letter, (your organization) joins the international call for their release. It is imperative that they be allowed to return to their work for the sake of global medical progress and for the welfare of Iran's people.

We hope to hear from the Iranian Mission/Embassy/Consulate about this case. Please contact (your organization) at (phone number) or (email) with any information about this case.

Sincerely,

[Your organizational leadership]

FREE THE DOCS!

Alaei Day Sample Text for Emails/Web posts/Newsletters

May 12 is the Global Day of Action to free Iranian HIV/AIDS physicians Dr Arash Alaei and Dr Kamiar Alaei. We will be joining medical professionals around the world in calling for their release at a short vigil/informational event. Please read on...

Campus Text: To support the doctors, and the right of all physicians to practice responsible medicine without fear of persecution, PHR is organizing vigils on campuses throughout the country. **Our chapter will be a part of Alaei Day by hosting a vigil on May 12 at Time in the Location. Please show your support for our colleagues across the world!**

If you can't make the vigil, sign the petition to free the Alaeis at IranFreeTheDocs.org and help send a powerful message to the Iranian government that public health and human rights are critical and must be respected.

***Note: The above event will **ONLY TAKE 15 MINUTES**. Please Wear Your White Coat! ***

NGO/Medical Association Text: (If you are doing a vigil)

To support the doctors, and the right of all physicians to practice responsible medicine without fear of persecution, PHR is organizing vigils on campuses throughout the country. **Our chapter will be a part of Alaei Day by hosting a vigil on May 12 at Time in the Location. Please show your support for our colleagues across the world!**

If you can't make the vigil, sign the petition to free the Alaeis at IranFreeTheDocs.org and help send a powerful message to the Iranian government that public health and human rights are critical and must be respected.

***Note: The above event will **ONLY TAKE 15 MINUTES**. Please Wear Your White Coat! ***

NGO/Medical Association Text: (If you are releasing a Statement/Visiting the Embassy)

To support the doctors, and the right of all physicians to practice responsible medicine without fear of persecution, (your organization) has released a statement urging the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to release the brothers immediately so they can return to their life-saving public health work. A delegation from (your organization) will also visit the Iranian Embassy in (your country) on the Global Day of Action for the Alaeis, May 12, to discuss this case.

You too can support this effort: sign the petition to free the Alaeis at IranFreeTheDocs.org and help send a powerful message to the Iranian government that public health and human rights are critical and must be respected.

May 5, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Day of Action to Free Iranian HIV/AIDS Physicians: Local Groups Join Vigil at Iranian Embassy

Media Contacts:

- In [country]: [name, (languages)] at [email] or [phone]
- In the USA, for Physicians for Human Rights:
Sarah Kalloch (English) at skalloch [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-978-471-9142 (mobile); or
Susannah Sirkin (English and French), ssirkin [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-617-999-9728
(mobile)

(City, country)— Medical professionals, Iranian community members, students, and rights activists in [city] will join medical professionals holding vigils at Iranian Embassies around the world on **Tuesday 12 May**. The vigil is part of an International Day of Action calling on the Iranian government to release Dr. Arash Alaei and Dr. Kamiar Alaei, HIV/AIDS physicians who have pioneered HIV/AIDS programs responsible for saving hundreds of lives in their native country.

Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei —Iranian brothers who are known worldwide for their work as HIV/AIDS physicians – were arrested in Tehran in June 2008 before they were due to appear at the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City, and were held for more than six months before being subjected to a sham trial and accused of seeking to overthrow the Iranian government through their HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Iran. Kamiar and Arash learned on Jan. 20, 2009 that they had been convicted and sentenced to terms of three and six years respectively, to be served at Evin Prison. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

[Group name] students got involved after learning about the campaign from Physicians for Human Rights, and responded to the call for action by planning a vigil on campus. Vigil organizer/spokesperson [name] said:

“The vigil is an important opportunity to raise awareness on our campus about Drs. Arash and Kamiar Alaei and the terrible persecution that they are enduring. As medical students, faculty, and professionals, we have to stand up for good medicine and support the doctors.”

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health in Albany, New York and was expected to resume his studies there this fall. In 2007, he received a Master of Science degree in Population and International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr. Arash Alaei is the former director of the International Education and Research Cooperation of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Since 1998, the Drs. Alaei have been carrying out HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, particularly focused on harm reduction for injecting drug users.

In addition to their work in Iran, the Alaei brothers have held training courses for Afghan and Tajik medical workers and have worked to encourage regional cooperation among 12 Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries. Their efforts expanded the expertise of doctors in the region, advanced the progress of medical science, and earned Iran recognition as a model of best practice by the World Health Organization.

May 11, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Day of Action to Free Iranian HIV/AIDS Physicians: Local Groups Join Vigil at Iranian Embassy

Media Contacts:

- In [country]: [name, (languages)] at [email] or [phone]
- In the USA, for Physicians for Human Rights:
Sarah Kalloch (English) at skalloch [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-978-471-9142 (mobile); or
Susannah Sirkin (English and French), ssirkin [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-617-999-9728
(mobile)

(City, country)— Medical professionals, Iranian community members, students, and rights activists in [city] will join medical professionals holding vigils at Iranian Embassies around the world on **Tuesday 12 May**. The vigil is part of an International Day of Action calling on the Iranian government to release Dr. Arash Alaei and Dr. Kamiar Alaei, HIV/AIDS physicians who have pioneered HIV/AIDS programs responsible for saving hundreds of lives in their native country.

Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei —Iranian brothers who are known worldwide for their work as HIV/AIDS physicians – were arrested in Tehran in June 2008 before they were due to appear at the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City, and were held for more than six months before being subjected to a sham trial and accused of seeking to overthrow the Iranian government through their HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Iran. Kamiar and Arash learned on Jan. 20, 2009 that they had been convicted and sentenced to terms of three and six years respectively, to be served at Evin Prison. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

[Group name] students got involved after learning about the campaign from Physicians for Human Rights, and responded to the call for action by planning a vigil on campus. Vigil organizer/spokesperson [name] said:

“The vigil is an important opportunity to raise awareness on our campus about Drs. Arash and Kamiar Alaei and the terrible persecution that they are enduring. As medical students, faculty, and professionals, we have to stand up for good medicine and support the doctors.”

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health in Albany, New York and was expected to resume his studies there this fall. In 2007, he received a Master of Science degree in Population and International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr. Arash Alaei is the former director of the International Education and Research Cooperation of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Since 1998, the Drs. Alaei have been carrying out HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, particularly focused on harm reduction for injecting drug users.

In addition to their work in Iran, the Alaei brothers have held training courses for Afghan and Tajik medical workers and have worked to encourage regional cooperation among 12 Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries. Their efforts expanded the expertise of doctors in the region, advanced the progress of medical science, and earned Iran recognition as a model of best practice by the World Health Organization.

May 12, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory: May 12 Vigil at Iranian Embassy

Media Contacts:

- In [country]: [name, (languages)] at [email] or [phone]
- In the USA, for Physicians for Human Rights:
Sarah Kalloch (English) at skalloch [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-978-471-9142 (mobile); or
Susannah Sirkin (English and French), ssirkin [at] phrusa [dot] org or +1-617-999-9728 (mobile)

(City, country)— Medical professionals, Iranian community members, students, and rights activists in [city] will join medical professionals holding vigils at Iranian Embassies around the world on **Tuesday 12 May**. The vigil is part of an International Day of Action calling on the Iranian government to release Dr. Arash Alaei and Dr. Kamiar Alaei, HIV/AIDS physicians who have pioneered HIV/AIDS programs responsible for saving hundreds of lives in their native country.

Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei —Iranian brothers who are known worldwide for their work as HIV/AIDS physicians – were arrested in Tehran in June 2008 before they were due to appear at the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City, and were held for more than six months before being subjected to a sham trial and accused of seeking to overthrow the Iranian government through their HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Iran. Kamiar and Arash learned on Jan. 20, 2009 that they had been convicted and sentenced to terms of three and six years respectively, to be served at Evin Prison. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

[Group name] got involved after learning about the campaign from Physicians for Human Rights, and responded to the call for action by planning a vigil on campus. Vigil organizer/spokesperson [name] said:

“The vigil is an important opportunity to raise awareness on our campus about Drs. Arash and Kamiar Alaei and the terrible persecution that they are enduring. As medical students, faculty, and professionals, we have to stand up for good medicine and support the doctors.”

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health in Albany, New York and was expected to resume his studies there this fall. In 2007, he received a Master of Science degree in Population and International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr. Arash Alaei is the former director of the International Education and Research Cooperation of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Since 1998, the Drs. Alaei have been carrying out HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, particularly focused on harm reduction for injecting drug users.

In addition to their work in Iran, the Alaei brothers have held training courses for Afghan and Tajik medical workers and have worked to encourage regional cooperation among 12 Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries. Their efforts expanded the expertise of doctors in the region, advanced the progress of medical science, and earned Iran recognition as a model of best practice by the World Health Organization.

Talking points for High-level Meetings

The Alaei doctors set up clinics to treat Iran's most vulnerable populations, and they were part of a series of pioneering public health professionals who helped revolutionize Iran's AIDS treatment programs. These efforts were called a "model of best practice" by the World Health Organization.

The Alaeis had no known political involvement. Whenever speaking about Iran they spoke of their love for the country and Persian culture and their work on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

The doctors' trial did not meet standards of due process under international human rights law or even under the Iranian penal code.

Their attorney did not have the opportunity to examine the accuracy or relevance of certain undisclosed evidence and thus had no opportunity to rebut the case.

PHR is concerned that the doctors may have been subjected to coercion during their intensive, six-month detention

Any confession from Kamiar or Arash obtained under duress in the notorious section 209 of Evin prison must be viewed as tainted.

The doctors have been charged with communicating with an enemy government, however, the United States is not a formal enemy of Iran. Furthermore, in a recent speech, President Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying, "the Iranian nation is ready for talks [with the U.S.]."

This case is being prosecuted as an example to try to curb or suppress engagement with the global civil society, including on issues of health. However, winning the fight against HIV/AIDS demands international cooperation.

The accusations of working to overthrow the government are completely unfounded. What they did was collaborate with an international community of HIV/AIDS physicians, clinicians, nurses, researchers and activists to develop innovative and life saving HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. That's not a crime, that's good medicine.

In light of the above and numerous other factors, we ask for the Alaei doctors' immediate release.

FAQ

- **How do you know they're innocent of political involvement?**
- There has been no evidence presented of their engagement with any political activities. PHR has spoken to countless friends, colleagues and relatives of the Alaeis who have attested that the doctors have only ever spoken highly of Iranian government and culture, and had no motivations for their work other than the health of the Iranian people.
- **They were communicating with doctors in the U.S.**
- It's true that the doctors did work with international medics, and that they spoke at the Aspen Institute and other venues. However, this is only a testament to the Alaeis' ability to help Iran and the U.S. find common ground through dialogue on health issues. Relations between the two countries have at times been tense, but combating HIV/AIDS was a shared goal of both nations. Prior to their detention, the Alaeis were making great strides toward allowing the U.S. and Iran to focus on a major similarity—the value both nations place on public health.
- **You have no right to criticize the Iranian judicial system.**
- We are not criticizing the Iranian judicial system, we are questioning the validity of this particular case. There is no evidence that they were involved in any activities, the trial exhibited a total disregard for due process and they have already been detained for too long under Iranian law.

FREE THE DOCS!

**Sign a Petition Asking Iran's Supreme Leader,
Ayatollah Khamenei, to Free the Drs. Alaei!**

Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei need your help now more than ever.

After being held without charge for over 6 months, Arash and Kamiar were subjected to a perfunctory, one-day trial in December 2008. They were charged with communicating with an enemy state and with other secret charges which neither they nor their attorney were allowed to see evidence for or address. PHR believes these to be politically motivated and illegitimate charges leveled in a patently unfair court proceeding.

On January 19, 2009, they were convicted and sentenced to prison terms in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison – Kamiar to three years and Arash to six. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

The health and human rights community continues to work to free the Alaeis, and you can help. Please sign this updated petition today to take action on their behalf. Make a major difference in their lives and in the lives of people with HIV in Iran. PHR will send this petition to His Excellency the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei.

Petition Text:

Your Excellency, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei
Cc: Head of the Judiciary, His Excellency, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi; Dr. Ali A. Larijani, Speaker of the Majlis of Iran

I am writing to urge Iran to immediately release Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei - two prominent Iranian HIV/AIDS physicians imprisoned since June 2008 - and to drop all charges against them. The Alaeis were tried in December 2008 on charges of communicating with an "enemy government" in Tehran's Revolutionary Court. The court also informed the brothers there were additional secret charges which the brothers' attorney had no opportunity to examine or refute. They were convicted of these charges on 19 January. Their attorney filed an appeal February 9, 2009. The Court in Iran opened the appeal March 18th, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19th, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision April 6th, 2009. He has a month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

The publicly-announced charges are illegitimate and without credible foundation, and the case is marked by clear violations of due process. This case also sends an ominous signal regarding the Iranian Government's crackdown on international scientific exchange that could negatively impact public health in Iran. I urge Iran to free these brothers immediately so that they can continue their life-saving work for the benefit of the people of Iran and the world.

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health in Albany, New York and was expected to resume his studies there in the fall of 2008. In 2007, he received a Master of Science degree in Population and International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Arash Alaei is the former director of the International Education and Research Cooperation of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Since 1998, the Drs. Alaei have been carrying out HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, particularly focused on harm reduction for injecting drug users.

In addition to their work in Iran, the Alaei brothers have held training courses for Afghan and Tajik medical workers and have worked to encourage regional cooperation among 12 Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries. Their efforts expanded the expertise of doctors in the region, advanced the progress of medical science, and earned Iran recognition as a model of best practice by the World Health Organization.

Iran's people need the Doctors Alaei to be allowed to continue their life-saving work. Please grant the Alaeis' appeal and overturn the unfair verdict against them so they can return to saving lives in Iran.

Name: _____ Affiliation/Title: _____

Name
Phone
School/Program

Affiliation/Title	Degree
Address	State/Country
	Grad Year

Email
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
Student? Y [] N []
<input type="text"/>

Sign the Petition Calling on Iran's Supreme Leader to Free the Drs. Alaei

Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
Name (please print)	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	
Name (please print)	Affiliation/Title	Degree(s)	Email
Phone	Address	City	Student? Y [] N [] Grad Year 20_____
State/Country	Zip/Postal Code	School	

Name	Affiliation/	Degree	Email
			@
Phone	Address	State/Country	
			Student? Y [] N []
School/Program	Grad Year		



Treating AIDS is not a crime - It's good medicine

Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei, two Iranian physicians known worldwide for their work on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, were arrested on June 22, 2008 and detained at Evin prison in Tehran.

They were held incommunicado, without access to family or legal representation, until late August 2008 and continued to be detained without bail or knowledge of the charges against them.

Iran, Free the Docs

Thousands of supporters worldwide have joined the call for the release of Kamiar and Arash, with signatories including Global Fund executive director, Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Partners in Health co-founder, Dr. Paul Farmer, and colleagues, healthcare workers and supporters in more than 81 countries.

In February the lawyer representing the Alaei brothers filed an appeal on behalf of Arash and Kamiar. Supporters are working tirelessly to urge the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, to immediately release the brothers and drop the unsubstantiated charges against them.

Know. Dare. Act.

IranFreeTheDocs.org

IranFreeTheDocs.org

Since 1998 Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei have been carrying out HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs in Iran, specifically focused on harm reduction for injecting drug users.

In addition to their work in Iran, the Alaei brothers have held training courses for Afghan and Tajik medical workers and have worked to encourage regional cooperation among 12 Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries.

Their efforts expanded the expertise of doctors in the region, advanced the progress of medical science, and earned Iran recognition as a model of best practice by the World Health Organization.

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health in Albany, New York. In 2007, he received the MSc in Population and International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr Arash Alaei is former Director of the International Education and Research Cooperation of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

How did this happen?

The brothers traveled the world to share Iran's model of HIV prevention and treatment, working cooperatively with officials and medical professionals elsewhere in the Middle East and in the United States in addition to working closely with Iranian government and religious leaders to ensure support for education campaigns on HIV transmission.

The Iranian government now alleges that the Alaei brothers' work, helping to make Iran a global leader in the prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, was a plan to recruit people to foment a "velvet revolution" in Iran. Unbelievable claims made with no evidence to explain them.

Take action

On December 31, the brothers were tried in Tehran's Revolutionary Court on charges of "communicating with an enemy government", and also of additional, secret, charges. The brothers' attorney had no opportunity to refute these charges because the prosecutor did not disclose either the charges or evidence.

The doctors learned on Jan. 20, 2009 that they had been convicted and sentenced to terms of three and six years respectively. Their attorney filed an appeal in February, 2009, as medical professionals around the world continue to support the doctors by renewing calls for their immediate release. The Court of Iran opened the appeal on March 18, 2009, and denied the brothers' appeal one day later on March 19, 2009. Their lawyer was informed of the court's decision on April 6, 2009. He has one month from that date to appeal this sentence under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

Join the Global Day of Action for the Alaeis:

- ⇒ **Sign the Petition:** go to *IranFreeTheDocs.org*.
- ⇒ **Tell 10:** organize friends and colleagues to sign the petition at *IranFreeTheDocs.org*.
- ⇒ **Demonstrate:** your school or institution can show its support by joining the call for the Docs' release. Sample statements to send to the Iranian Embassy or Consulate in your country can be found at *IranFreeTheDocs.org*.
- ⇒ **Join a Vigil:** May 12 will see groups in many countries rallying on behalf of the Docs. Find out where at *IranFreeTheDocs.org*.

IranFreeTheDocs.org

IranFreeTheDocs.org is a coalition of organizations, friends and colleagues who believe that treating AIDS is not a crime. We stand with Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei in promoting HIV/AIDS education, prevention and treatment as good medicine, and call for their immediate release.

Timeline

June 22 2008: Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei arrested at their parent's home in Tehran.

Late August 2008: Drs. Alaei given access to lawyer and family.

Late December 2008: Drs. Alaei indicted on charges of communicating with an "enemy government".

December 31 2008: Drs. Alaei tried in Tehran's Revolutionary Court, and hear of secret charges against them.

January 20 2009: Drs. Alaei learn they have been convicted and sentenced to 6 years (Arash) and 3 years (Kamiar).

February 9 2009: Attorney files an appeal.

March 18 2009: Court of Iran opens appeal

March 19 2009: Court of Iran denies appeal.

April 6 2009: Lawyer informed of Court of Iran's decision and has 1 month to file an appeal under Article 18 of Iran's Constitution.

May 12, 2009: Global Day of Action to call for the release of the Alaeis.

FREE THE DOCS!

Alaei Day Photos – Upload Instructions

<http://drop.io/iranfreethedocs>

One of the most important things about Alaei Day is the visuals: photos from the vigils and more faces to join the photo petition to illustrate worldwide support for the brothers to the media and to the Iranian government.

Please make sure that you have people assigned to take photos at your event (and that they are able to get the photos off their camera and up to our site). **Photos of groups of people in front of the embassy, wearing white coats, holding signs, are key!** Make sure that you can see the Iranian embassy in the background of the photos (look for a flag or other visible sign).

Photo petition: The Alaei photo petition now has more than a hundred faces supporting our slogan 'Treating AIDS is not a Crime' and we hope that hundreds more will join on Alaei Day. Please print out 5-10 copies of the poster (make enlarged and mounted versions if possible!) and ask people to have their photo taken holding it at the vigil.

How to Upload Your Photos:

Uploading is easy to do and shouldn't take you too long - click on <http://drop.io/iranfreethedocs> and follow the onscreen instructions to browse your pictures and upload vigil photos.

You can upload vigil photos AND photo petition photos to the site - we'll separate them into two groups once they're up there.

Please also post the link on your facebook group so that people who take their own photos on iPhones/other cameras at the event can add them too!