



June 2, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In February, the American Medical Association (AMA) communicated our grave concerns about the arrest and detention of two Iranian physicians, Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei. The world medical community spoke out forcefully against Iran's actions at the time of the trial and sentencing of the doctors Alaei.

We appreciate the actions the Department of State has taken on behalf of Kamiar and Arash Alaei. We remain deeply troubled, however, by subsequent developments in the case and ongoing uncertainty about the welfare of these dedicated physicians who have worked to reduce the spread of HIV in their country.

It is our understanding that the initial appeal by their attorney was denied barely 24 hours after it was filed. The deadline provided under Iranian law for a second appeal passed on May 6, 2009. To the best of our knowledge, there has as yet been no response. We are all the more concerned given our understanding that the physicians will not be permitted to file a further appeal for more than a year.

All physicians, regardless of background or station, are bound by ethical duties to help those in need. As one of the founding members of the World Medical Association, the AMA is committed to assisting in any way possible to obtain the release of Drs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei.

We again appreciate your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy H. Nielsen".

Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph M. Heyman".

Joseph M. Heyman, MD
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: J. James, Rohack, MD
Rebecca J. Patchin, MD
Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA