



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dr. Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President, CEO
American Medical Association
515 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60654

RECEIVED

APR 27 2009

MICHAEL D. MAVES, MD, MBA
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

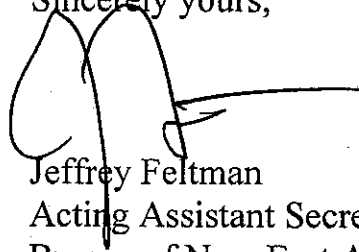
Dear Dr. Maves,

I am responding to your letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton regarding the two Iranian HIV/AIDS doctors Kamiar and Arash Alaei who have been unjustly accused by Iran. We share the concerns of the American Medical Association over their arbitrary arrest in June 2008 and sentencing in January 2009. As you know, this sentiment has been echoed by a number of individuals and organizations in the medical community, both in the United States and abroad, who have been touched by the Alaei brothers' invaluable contributions to the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Department of State has been closely following the doctors' cases and coordinating with human rights organizations who are actively working to advance their cause. The Department released a press statement in December marking the six month anniversary of their detainment. In February, the Department published the *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* in Iran, which discusses the case of the Alaei brothers in detail. In addition, the United States highlighted concerns about the lack of due process in Iran at the Human Rights Council's Tenth Session in Geneva. I assure you that we will continue to monitor the welfare of the Alaei brothers and advocate on their behalf, both publically and privately, until their release is secured, as we do in the cases of other prisoners of conscience in Iran and elsewhere.

I invite you to contact the Office of Iranian Affairs at (202) 647-2569 if you would like further updates or would like to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeffrey Feltman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Feltman
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near East Affairs

Background

Dr. Michael Maves, the Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Medical Association, wrote a letter to you to express his concern about the arrest and detention of Iranian physicians and brothers Arash and Kamiar Alaei, who are internationally known for their research on HIV/AIDS. At the time of their arrest in June 2008, Dr. Kamiar Alaei was a Ph.D. candidate in health sciences at SUNY in Albany, NY and Dr. Arash Alaei was the former director of the International Institute for Education and Research on Pulmonary Disease and Tuberculosis in Iran. Both brothers participated in the USG-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in November 2006 - the first exchange program with Iran since 1979 - due to their active work on decreasing the transmission of HIV/AIDS Iran via intravenous drug users. On January 17, 2009, after months of detention and a brief closed trial, Drs. Arash and Kamiar Alaei were sentenced to six- and three-year prison terms respectively for allegedly attempting to foment a "soft revolution". Their appeal request was recently turned down.

Approved by: NEA AS JFeltman

Drafted by: NEA/IR ETHibault 7-2569

Clearances: NEA/IR: TFoley - ok
S/SAGSWA: CCoberly - ok
P: RRangaswamey - ok
ECA: LHigh - ok
DRL: JMegill - ok
S/P: JBurns - ok
PA/FO: AYehl - ok
D: GRana - ok

Prepared by AMA Ethics



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Clinton:

The American Medical Association has become aware of a disturbing situation regarding two Iranian physicians, and we wish to bring your attention to this matter.

Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei are brothers and physicians who have developed innovative programs for preventing and treating HIV in Iran. They have frequently traveled abroad to describe their programs and to learn from others. Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a doctoral candidate at the State University of New York Albany School of Public Health who had been expected to resume his studies there last fall. (He also has a Master's degree from the Harvard School of Public Health.) Dr. Arash Alaei is the former director of the International Education and Research Cooperative of the Iranian National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

Approximately six months ago both brothers were arrested in Iran and charged with "cooperating with an enemy government." Alleged to be working with the United States government, they were tried in a secret court with no way to confront their accusers, hear evidence presented against them, or even to hear all of the charges that had been brought against them. Recently they were convicted and given sentences of 3 years (Kamiar) and 6 years (Arash) in prison. Several human rights groups report they fear the brothers have been and are being abused by their captors.

Recently the World Medical Association wrote to the Iranian government demanding that these physicians be released from this unjustified detention and urging the government not to harm them. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

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The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

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According to a recent article in the *Washington Post*, the Iranian government is now using these cases as an early test of the Obama Administration. We strongly urge that discussions of human rights, justice and respect for the medical profession (and the Alaei brothers specifically) must be part of any opening dialogue with Iran.

If the American Medical Association may be of service in this matter, we would be pleased to provide assistance.

Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Maves".

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA

Enclosure

cc: Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD
J. James Rohack, MD
Joseph M. Heyman, MD
Cecil B. Wilson, MD
J. Edward Hill, MD
Otmnar Kloiber, MD
Robin J. Menes, CAE