

1 July 2011

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic
Islamic Republic Street – Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency:

We, the undersigned HIV/AIDS experts and medical leaders, would like to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the early release from Evin prison of internationally renowned HIV/AIDS physician Dr. Kamiar Alaei, after two and a half years of imprisonment in November 2010. As health professionals deeply concerned about the health of citizens of Iran and around the world, we are very pleased that he can now continue his vital medical and public health work.

We now write to respectfully ask your government also to release Dr. Arash Alaei, Dr. Kamiar Alaei's brother, from Evin Prison in Tehran during the upcoming Islamic holy days. It is our understanding that, as of 27 June 2011, Dr. Arash Alaei has completed three years of his six-year sentence and that according to Iranian law for first-time prisoners, he is eligible for release now. With his release, both of the Drs. Alaei can continue their life-saving work for the benefit of all humanity.

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. He has worked tirelessly to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and addiction and has demonstrated unwavering dedication to helping improve the lives of his countrymen and women by protecting them from disease and death. We believe that ending Dr. Alaei's confinement will benefit public health in Iran and will have a positive impact on the international medical community and the efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS.

As members of the international medical community, we hope the Iranian Government will recognize the prestige that Dr. Arash Alaei and Dr. Kamiar Alaei have brought to the Islamic Republic. Their work has helped earn Iran recognition as a model of best practice in harm reduction by the World Health Organization.

We respectfully ask your government to give freedom to Dr. Arash Alaei and look forward to your prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

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London, United Kingdom

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CERiA
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Cc: His Excellency Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
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