



President

Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Speaker of Parliament

Dr Ali Larijani
Majles-e Shoura-ye Eslami,
Baharestan Square,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Re: **IFJ Executive Committee's APPEAL to IRAN**

London 15 November 2009

Excellencies,

We, the undersigned Executive Committee Members of the International Federation of Journalists, are deeply concerned about news of serious violations of press freedom in Iran. The targeting of media in recent months, including the arbitrary arrest of Iranian journalists and the closure of the offices of the Association of Iranian Journalists (AoIJ), has been unprecedented.

According to reliable information we have received, more than 50 journalists have been arrested and at least 20 remain in prison. Additionally your government has shut down at least six newspapers and started preventing journalists from travelling abroad.

On the order of your government's General Prosecutor, the headquarters of the AoIJ were sealed on 5 August, shortly before its general assembly. Iranian journalists claim this was an illegal act. In September, more than 300 journalists have submitted through the AoIJ an application to the General Prosecutor for the reopening of the office. No answer has given by the Judiciary so far.

We believe that these ongoing detentions and restrictions on the rights of journalists have done considerable damage to Iranian public's basic right to be informed on the events in their country.

We hereby endorse the strong resolution adopted by the IFJ regional meeting which brought together 15 union leaders in the Middle East and the Arab World held in Amman from 5-7 October calling for an end to the media clampdown in Iran. The statement from union leaders in the region said:

"We note with dismay the deterioration of conditions in Iran, where the journalists' association was closed and dozens of journalists detained while others were forced to flee the country. The meeting expresses full solidarity with Iranian colleagues and calls on the Iranian authorities to lift the siege on the offices of the Iranian Association of Journalists and to release all journalists and to end harassment."

The jailing of journalists is violating Iran's commitment and agreements it signed to respect human rights and press freedom, including its obligations to Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

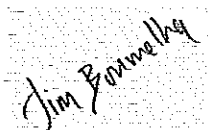
We are therefore writing to request your personal intervention to:

1. Secure the immediate release of all detained journalists,
2. Reopen of the offices of the Association of Iranian Journalists
3. Ensure the freedom of movement of journalists travelling in and out of Iran.

Yours sincerely

IFJ Executive Committee Members

Jim Bourmelha



Aidan White Aidan White



IFJ Executive Committee's Appeal to IRAN

Dear IFJ President

Nour Toubassi

M. St. H. /
Eva Stabell

M. Koyut

Sabina Indryjt

Mark

Omar Fank Osman

Thomas R. Carpenter

Christopher

Dina Noonen

Jean Yamakoski



IFJ Executive Committee's Appeal to IRAN

KHADY CISSE

PAOLO SERRAVALLO

Mario GUASTO

Olivier Da Lage

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård

EVA STABELL

NIKOS MEGRELIS