



International
Federation
of Journalists

JIM BOUMELHA
President

BETH COSTA
General Secretary

HE Hassan Rohani
President
Islamic Republic of Iran

c/o Embassy of Iran, Brussels, Belgium

30 April 2014

Dear President Rohani,

I write to you in the lead up to World Press Day, the international day to mark press freedom across the globe, regarding the continued closure of the headquarters of the Association of Iranian Journalists (AoIJ) in Iran.

On behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its 180 member unions worldwide, I wish to reiterate our request that your government takes the necessary steps required to reopen the Tehran headquarters of the AoIJ which have been closed since August 2009 following an order from the general prosecutor at the time.

I also take this opportunity to repeat our request for your government to take urgent steps to release those journalists who are currently imprisoned in Iran. Journalists across the globe have been horrified by the judicial process that put these journalists in jail and the abusive treatment they are facing in prison.

Since your election last year, we have welcomed every statement you have made about press freedom in Iran and the role and responsibility of journalists in upholding the right of Iranian citizens to receive reliable and trustworthy information. However, for these powerful statements to have an enduring impact, it is crucial that your government now takes these positive and enduring actions that will convey its commitment to freedom of speech and media freedom.

Therefore, we urge you to build on the positive approach you have shown to press freedom since your election by ordering the lifting of the closure of the headquarters and the release of journalists imprisoned in Iran. This would send a strong message about media freedom in Iran and the important role of journalists in the future of your country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jim Boumelha', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Boumelha,
President, International Federation of Journalists

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