



TRENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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Minister Stéphane Dion
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
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June 21, 2016

Request for intervention to secure the Immediate Release of Professor Homa Hoodfar

We are writing to ask respectfully for your intervention for the immediate release of Professor Homa Hoodfar, a world-renowned Canadian-Iranian scholar who was arrested in Iran and is believed to be held in Tehran's Evin prison.

For the past 25 years, Professor Hoodfar has made significant scholarly contributions to build bridges of understanding through Middle Eastern Studies at McGill and Concordia Universities in Canada. She is the author of numerous books and articles, specializing in gender and family issues.

We are writing to express our deep concern for her safety and frustration over her detention in Iran. Professor Hoodfar went to Iran to visit her family earlier this year. In early March 2016, she was taken in for interrogation and her passports, computer and other things confiscated. Since then Professor Hoodfar has been subjected to repeated interrogations and accusations, for which no evidence has been presented. She was once again summoned for interrogation on 6 June 2016, and then imprisoned.

Neither her lawyer nor her family have been granted permission to visit her or provide her medication. She suffers from a rare neurological condition – myasthenia gravis – that requires close medical supervision and medication. Furthermore, their inquiries about the reason for her arrest and the charges against her have remained unanswered.

We are deeply troubled by the manner in which Professor Hoodfar has been treated, and worry about her declining health. Additionally, Prof Hoodfar has a number of ongoing academic

obligations in Canada, including graduate students who depend on her guidance to complete their degrees.

We urge the Government of Canada to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of this distinguished scholar, and achieve her immediate and unconditional release.

On behalf of the Trent University Faculty Association, Executive Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Harvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Marcus Harvey PhD.,
Executive Director

c.c. **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**, Office of the Prime Minister