



Federation of
Post-Secondary Educators
of BC

July 5, 2016

BY EMAIL

The Honourable Dr. Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
c/o H.E. Mr. Gholam Ali Khoshroo
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
The Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN
Email: iran@un.int

RE: Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran

Your Excellency:

I write today on behalf of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of British Columbia in order to express our deep concern with regard to the unjustified arrest of the internationally renowned anthropologist Professor Homa Hoodfar. A longstanding and highly respected member of the Canadian university community, Professor Hoodfar has been charged by judicial authorities in Iran with sedition against the State. Professor Hoodfar has had her passport seized, her personal belongings confiscated, and has been forbidden from leaving the country. Over the course of the last two months, she has been subjected to repeated and lengthy interrogations.

Far from a proponent of the seditious activities of which she is accused, Professor Hoodfar has been recognised around the world as a rigorous scholar who takes a balanced and even-handed approach to her anthropological work on Middle Eastern societies, in particular Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Iran. Exclusively academic in nature, Professor Hoodfar's research on issues ranging from household and family relations to the development challenges facing women has been translated into many languages and seeks to dispel stereotypes of Muslim cultural contexts. The unfortunate accusations of subversion against Professor Hoodfar are unfounded as all her colleagues in the international community of scholars can attest to her integrity without hesitation.

Since her arrival at Concordia University in 1991, Professor Hoodfar has become a pillar of its Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She is an admired teacher and a widely sought-after supervisor. Professor Hoodfar is currently overseeing a number of graduate student projects whose completion depends on her close attention and ongoing guidance.

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Professor Hoodfar's inability to leave Iran has left her students without a supervisor, thereby stalling their academic progress and interfering in no small way with their ability to finish their research-related work.

As President of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, I respectfully ask that you assist in resolving this regrettable action.

Yours truly,



George Davison, PhD
President, FPSE

Copied to:

His Excellency, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani
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