

PEN CANADA

for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION

May 5, 2006

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
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Excellency,

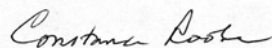
PEN Canada is writing to call for the release of Iranian-Canadian writer and scholar **Ramin Jahanbegloo**.

According to our information, Jahanbegloo was detained at Tehran Airport on or around Thursday, April 27. Officials refused to acknowledge his detention until May 3, when Tehran's deputy prosecutor general, Mahmoud Salarkia, confirmed it in an interview with the Iranian Students News Agency. Also on May 3, the Fars News Agency quoted the chief of prisons in Tehran Province, Sohrab Soleimani, as saying that Jahanbegloo was being held in Tehran's Evin prison. Neither official gave any reason for Jahanbegloo's arrest. An unnamed judiciary official told the daily *Etemad-e Melli* that charges against Jahanbegloo "will be announced after the interrogations."

A prominent philosopher who has written extensively on cultural and philosophical topics, Jahanbegloo is director of Contemporary Studies at the Cultural Research Bureau, a private institution in Tehran. His academic writings include more than 20 books in English, French and Farsi. He has also written for newspapers and magazines in Iran and abroad. He worked at the University of Toronto from 1997 to 2002.

PEN Canada is extremely concerned over the arrest and detention of Ramin Jahanbegloo and demands that he be released immediately and unconditionally. We also call on your government to disclose the reasons for his arrest. PEN Canada also seeks assurances that Jahanbegloo not be tortured while in custody and that he receive any medical attention that may be required.

Sincerely,



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