

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead calling for the release from detention of Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh and Shadi Sadr.

16 March 2007

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Shoahada Street, Qom
Fax: +011 98 21 774 2228
E-mail: info@leader.ir, istiftaa@wilayah.org
Web: www.wilayah.ir

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to demand the release from detention of writers **Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh** and **Shadi Sadr**.

According to our information, both women were arrested on 4 March 2007, among some thirty female human rights defenders and writers who had gathered in front of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran to protest the court proceedings of Nooshin Amhadi Khorasani, Parvin Ardalan, Shahla Entesari and Susan Tahmasebi—prominent members of Iranian women's organizations who had been arrested in previous peaceful gatherings.

Since her arrest, Abbasgholizadeh has since been kept in solitary confinement for further investigation. She has not been allowed to contact anyone since her arrest, including her lawyers and her family. Sadr has been charged with "acting against national security." She, too, is being kept in solidarity confinement under a temporary confinement injunction. There are reports that both women have since begun a hunger strike.

PEN Canada believes that Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh and Shadi Sadr have been detained in violation of their rights to freedom of expression and of assembly, guaranteed under Articles 19 and 21, respectively, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party and legally bound. We call for their immediate and unconditional release. PEN Canada also urges that Abbasgholizadeh and Sadr be treated humanely while in detention and that they have access to family members and legal counsel.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +011 98 21 649 5880
E-mail: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir
Web-based message to President Amhadinejad: <http://www.president.ir/email/>

Acting Head of the Judiciary
His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 879 6671

Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Fax: (212) 867-7086
E-mail: iran@un.int

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
245 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa ON K2P 2K2
Fax: (613) 232-5712
E-mail: iranemb@salamiran.org, ambassador@iranembassy.org

Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

The Hon. Peter MacKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 996 3443
E-mail: peter.mackay@international.gc.ca

Hon. Jason Kenney
Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity)
433-C Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 992-1920
E-mail: kennej@parl.gc.ca

Thomas Marr
Director, Gulf and Maghreb Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: Thomas.marr@international.gc.ca

Jeffrey McLaren
Deputy Director, Iraq and Iran
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: Jeffrey.mclaren@international.gc.ca

Chrystiane Roy
Political and Trade Relations with Iran
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: chrystiane.roy@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca