

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead protesting the detention of Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand while in detention**

July 20, 2007

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Office of the Supreme Leader

Shoahada Street, Qom

Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info@leader.ir/istiftaa@wilayah.org

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 protest the detention of **Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand**.

Chair of the Kurdish Human Rights Organization (RMMK) based in Tehran, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is also the editor of *Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan (Kurdistan People's Message)* a weekly published in Kurdish and Persian, and has reportedly written two books on democracy and a third on the women's movement in Iran, which were not given publishing licences. On 27 June 2004, *Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan* was banned after only thirteen issues for 'disseminating separatist ideas and publishing false reports'. Convicted of 'disseminating tribal issues and publishing provocative articles' and 'spreading lies with the intention of upsetting public opinion' by a Revolutionary Court in Sanandaj, western Iran, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand received on 18 August 2005 a suspended prison sentence of 18 months, and a five-year ban on working as a journalist. His conviction was reportedly upheld on appeal, but the suspended prison sentence was increased to one year's actual imprisonment. In September 2006 he was summoned to begin his prison sentence, but remained free pending an appeal against his conviction to the Supreme Court.

According to PEN's information, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was arrested on 1 July 2007 at his place of work in Tehran by plain-clothed security officers. Following his arrest, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was initially taken to his house in Tehran, where security officers confiscated three computers, books, photographs, family films and personal documents, before taking him away to the Intelligence Ministry's Section 209 of Evin Prison, where he is feared to be at risk of torture and ill-treatment. He is believed to have had no contact with his family since his arrest. No reason has been given for his arrest, although it could be linked to the previous one-year prison sentence which he has never served.

**PEN Canada is seriously concerned about the detention of Iranian Kurdish journalist Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand. PEN Canada fears that he is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to free expression, and if so calls on the Iranian authorities to release him with immediate effect. PEN Canada is also seeking reassurances of his well being from the Iranian government. PEN Canada is deeply concerned about an apparent pattern of repression against journalists and human rights activists in Iranian Kurdistan which has been ongoing since unrest broke out in the Kurdish areas of Iran in July 2005, and was violently suppressed by the authorities.**

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

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Appeals to:

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency  
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: via Judiciary website: [Iranjudiciary.org/feedback\\_en.html](http://Iranjudiciary.org/feedback_en.html)  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Intelligence

Gholam Hossein Mohseni Eieie  
Ministry of Intelligence  
Second Negarestan Street  
Pasdaran Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [iranprobe@iranprobe.com](mailto:iranprobe@iranprobe.com)

COPIES TO:

President:

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: via Foreign Ministry +98 21 6674 790  
(mark: "Please forward to H.E. President Ahmadinejad.")  
Email: [dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir](mailto:dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir)  
Via website: [www.president.ir/email](http://www.president.ir/email)

Kurdistan Human Rights Organization

P.O. Box 188-13465  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [prmmkkurd@gmail.com](mailto:prmmkkurd@gmail.com)

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](mailto:peter.mackay@international.gc.ca)

Peter Harder  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: [peter.harder@international.gc.ca](mailto:peter.harder@international.gc.ca)

Hon. Jason Kenney  
Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity)  
433-C Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
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Email: [kennej@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kennej@parl.gc.ca)

Thomas Marr  
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