

# PEN CANADA

for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION



Zahra Kazemi, a Canadian photojournalist of Iranian descent, was murdered in Tehran in July 2003 after being imprisoned and tortured for taking photographs outside Evin prison.

Kazemi's body was buried in Shiraz, southern Iran, on July 22, 2003, contrary to the wishes of her son, Stéphan Hachemi. The journalist's mother, who lives in Iran, had asked that Kazemi's body be repatriated to Canada and signed a request to that effect at the Canadian embassy in Tehran. Canadian authorities had supported the request. Despite the requests, Kazemi was hurriedly buried in Iran. Since then, calls for the body to be exhumed and repatriated to Canada have fallen on deaf ears. The journalist's mother has since said publicly that she was put under pressure to allow the burial in Iran.

To date, no one in Iran has been brought to justice for Kazemi's murder. A show trial in 2004 resulted in the acquittal of an Iranian security agent. The government of Iran also publicly stated that her death was an accident, despite overwhelming evidence that

the journalist was several tortured, including sexually assaulted, while in custody.

**PEN Canada believes that the murder of Zahra Kazemi was a violation of her right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call on the government of Iran to take immediate measures that lead to the identification and punishment of those individuals who ordered and carried out the killing. PEN Canada also urges the government of Canada to take appropriate action to protest the torture and murder of a Canadian citizen and to do everything possible to see that justice is done and that the body of Kazemi be repatriated to Canada, as per the wishes of her family.**

Please send appeals to:

Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: +011 98 21 879 6671 or +011 98 21 640 4018/4019 (please mark "care of Director of International Affairs")  
E-mail: [Irjpr@iranjudiciary.org](mailto:Irjpr@iranjudiciary.org) (Public Relations Dept.), [Rahimi@iranjudiciary.org](mailto:Rahimi@iranjudiciary.org) (Public Relations Director)

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