

July 15, 2009

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Justice Ministry  
Pazdah-Khordad (Ark) Square  
Tehran, Iran

*By fax: 98 21 222 90 151*

Your Excellency:

We are writing to express our grave concern at the detention of our esteemed fellow journalist Maziar Bahari and to request his immediate release. Mr. Bahari has been detained since June 21. No charges have been brought against him, and he has not been granted access to a lawyer. As one of the most impartial and committed journalists in his field, he has reported regularly over the past decade from the Middle East, principally from Iran and Iraq, and provided consistently balanced and insightful reports. As an award-winning documentary filmmaker, he has earned global respect for his work.

We request that he be immediately released from custody and be allowed to resume his work. As a journalist, he was engaged in fulfilling his professional duties, reporting on critical events following the elections. At a minimum, he is entitled to the full protection of the laws of Iran, including the right to legal counsel. The Islamic Republic of Iran's domestic laws recognize the right to free expression. Iran was also one of the first countries in the world to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees all individuals the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media.

As leading international journalists and editors who wish to ensure that our fellow professionals are permitted to do their work safely and freely, we ask you to consider this petition and return Mr. Bahari to his family, friends, and colleagues without further delay.

Sincerely,

Nada Adessamad, Lebanon  
Abdulrahman Al-Rashed, Al-Arabiya  
Mansoor Al-Jamri, *Al-Wasat*, Bahrain  
Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani, Yemen  
Walid Al-Omari, Al-Jazeera  
Christiane Amanpour, CNN  
Jamal Amer, *Al-Wasat*, Yemen  
Jon Lee Anderson, *The New Yorker*

Ali Anouzla, *Al-Jarida Al-Oula*, Morocco  
Sally Armstrong, Maclean's, Canada  
Abdul Bari Atwan, *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*  
Omar Belhouchet, *Al-Watan*, Algeria  
Ahmed Reda Benchemsi, *TelQuel* and *Nishan*, Morocco  
Mohamed Benchicou, Algeria  
Sihem Bensedrine, *Kalima*, Tunisia  
Mehmet Ali Birand, CNN TURK  
Taoufik Bouachrine, *Akhbar el-Youm*, Morocco  
Ali Bulaç *Zaman*, Turkey  
Tony Burman, Al-Jazeera English  
Ian Buruma, Bard College  
Lydia Cacho, Mexico  
Carlos Fernando Chamorro, *Confidencial*, Nicaragua  
Doha Chams, *Al-Akhbar*, Lebanon  
Ying Chan, Hong Kong  
Noam Chomsky, U.S.  
Daniel Coronell, Noticias Uno, Colombia  
Marites Danguilan Vitug, *Newsbreak*, The Philippines  
Nicholas Dawes, *Mail and Guardian*, South Africa  
Redi Direko, Radio 702, South Africa  
Ibrahim Eissa, *Al-Dustour*, Egypt  
Gamal Fahmy, Egypt  
Lucio Flavio Pinto, *Jornal Pessoal*, Brazil  
Yousri Fouda, Egypt  
Tom Friedman, *The New York Times*  
Sami Ghaleb, *Al-Nida*, Yemen  
Murtada Ghali, *Ajras Al-Hurriya*, Sudan  
Hussein Abdel Ghani, Al-Jazeera  
Mónica Gonzalez, CIPER, Chile  
Gustavo Gorriti, Peru  
Alma Guillermoprieto, Mexico  
Lotfi Hajji, Al-Jazeera  
Brian Hungwe, Zimbabwe  
Boubakir Jamai, *Le Journal*, Morocco  
Josef Joffe, *Die Zeit*, Germany  
Chaitanya Kalbag, India  
Hisham Kassem, EOHR, Egypt  
Rachid Khechana, *Al-Mawkif*, Tunisia  
Elias Khoury, *An-Nahar*, Lebanon  
Kyung-Ho Kim, Journalists Association of Korea  
Sami Kohen, *Milliyet*, Turkey  
Ted Koppel, U.S.  
Mohamed Krichene, Al-Jazeera  
Daoud Kuttab, Palestine  
Andrei Lipsky, *Novaya Gazeta*, Russia

Linden MacIntyre, CBC, Canada  
Amadou Mahtar Ba, *All Africa*  
Peter Mansbridge, CBC, Canada  
Daniele Mastrogiacomo, *La Repubblica*, Italy  
Veran Matic, B92, Serbia  
Wilf Mbanga, *The Zimbabwean*  
Adam Michnik, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland  
John Micklethwait, *The Economist*  
Roula Mikkaeil, *Maharat*, Lebanon  
Javier Moreno, *El Pais*  
Caroline Mutoko, Kiss FM, Kenya  
Adela Navarro Bello, *Zeta*, Mexico  
Fintan O'Toole, *Irish Times*  
Carol Off, CBC, Canada  
Mariane Pearl, France  
Teodoro Petkoff, *Tal Cual*, Venezuela  
Alan Philps, U.K.  
Cristian Tudor, Popescu, *Gândul*, Romania  
Vladimir Pozner, Independent Journalist, Russia  
Antonia Rados, RTL Germany  
Sergio Ramírez, Nicaragua  
Ahmed Rashid, Pakistan  
Neziha Rejiba, *Kalima*, Tunisia  
Lloyd Robertson, CTV News, Canada  
Fernando Rodrigues, *Folha de S. Paulo*, Brazil  
Pierre Rousselin, *Le Figaro*  
Fabrice Rousselot, *Libération*  
Rana Sabbagh-Gargour, Jordan  
Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh, *Al-Ayyam*, Sudan  
Daniel Santoro, *Clarín*, Argentina  
Enrique Santos, *El Tiempo*, Colombia  
Fernando Savater, Spain  
Roberto Saviano, Italy  
Khaled Sergany, *Al-Dostour*, Egypt  
Najam Sethi, *Daily Times*, Pakistan  
Sabam Siagian, *Jakarta Post*, Indonesia  
Sigrun Slapgard, Norwegian Broadcasting Organisation  
Jon Snow, Channel 4, U.K.  
John Stackhouse, *The Globe and Mail*, Canada  
Paul Steiger, *ProPublica*, U.S.  
Ndey Tapha Sosseh, Gambia Press Union  
Tarun Tejpal, *Tehelka*, India  
Manuel Vázquez Portal, Cuba  
Franco Venturini, *Corriere della Sera*, Italy  
Horacio Verbitsky, *Página/12*, Argentina  
Jiang Weiping, China

Lal Wickrematunge, *Sunday Leader*, Sri Lanka  
Karem Yehya, Egypt  
Fareed Zakaria, *Newsweek*  
Faride Zeran, Chile