

**Leader of the Islamic Republic,
His Excellency
Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei,
The Office of the Supreme Leader, Shoahada Street, Qom,
Islamic Republic of Iran,
Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880 / 21 774 2228**

Re: Concerns regarding the arrest and detention of Iranian human rights lawyer Mr. Javid Houtan Kiyan

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it has also observer representatives from a further eleven European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concerns over the arrest, detention and possible torture of Iranian human rights lawyer Mr. Houtan Kiyan. We are informed that Mr. Houtan Kiyan, lawyer of Ms Sakineh Ashtiani – an Iranian woman who has been held on death row since 2006 and has recently faced the risk of execution by stoning - was arrested on 10 October 2010 for links to “anti-revolutionary groups abroad”.

We are told that Mr. Houtan Kiyan was arrested along with the son of Ms Ashtiani and two German nationals who had been apparently conducting an interview in Mr. Kiyan's office at the time of arrest. Mr. Houtan Kiyan is the only person from these individuals whom has yet to be released.

The CCBE is alarmed to learn of the continued repression of Iranian lawyers and increasing numbers of lawyers who have been summoned for interrogation, or been arrested.

We are told that it is feared that Mr. Houtan Kiyan may have been detained for no more than fulfilling his responsibilities as Ms Ashtiani's lawyer and also for talking to foreign nationals. We are additionally informed that his detention is part of the Iranian authorities on-going targeting of defence lawyers and that during his detention he may have been subjected to torture.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention the following Articles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Article 16 states that:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to

consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to take immediate and effective steps to release Mr. Houtan Kiyani unconditionally; to guarantee the safety of lawyers in order to preserve the independence and integrity of the administration of justice in Iran; and to ensure that all attempts to discredit lawyers for the legitimate exercise of their professional duties are promptly and effectively stopped.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Dal', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

GEORGES-ALBERT DAL

President