



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5 August 2013

Dear Senator Graham,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 12 June 2013 in which you raise the cases of Messrs. Saeed Abedinialangashi and Farshid Fathi Malayeri who are believed to be imprisoned for their alleged religious activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been closely following developments in this regard and the United Nations is grateful for the information you have shared.

Since 2008, I have been mandated to prepare annual reports to the United Nations General Assembly, and more recently also to the Human Rights Council, on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. These reports present opportunities to highlight concerns on different issues including on the situation of religious minorities such as Christians in Iran.

In addition, relevant Special Procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, have intervened with the Iranian authorities in cases of concern, including of Messrs. Abedinialangashi and Fathi Malayeri. Please rest assured that my office along with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will continue to follow these cases closely and, once the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been sworn in, will also take appropriate steps to emphasize our concerns to the authorities.

A similar letter has been sent to Senator Boozman.

Yours sincerely,


BAN/Ki-moon

The Honourable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C.

13-07801

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HRT/04/003

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A similar letter has been sent to Senator Graham.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban".

BAN Ki-moon

The Honourable John Boozman
United States Senator
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C.



To: CDC (through DSG)

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature two letters addressed to the US Senators Graham and Boozman, in reply to their joint letter of 12 June in which they bring to the SG's attention that in a recent meeting with former Iranian prisoners Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh, they learned of the ordeal in Evin prison in Teheran. They state that there are two prisoners in Ervin prison, Saeed Abedinigalangashi and Farshid Fathi Malayeri who were imprisoned for allegedly spreading Christianity in Iran. With the upcoming elections in Iran they are concerned the Iranian Government may use Saeed and Farshid as examples and continue to torture them, possibly leading in death.

They ask that the SG calls Sadeq Ardeshir Amoli Larijani, the current head of Iran's judicial system, to advocate for their immediate release.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AR' or similar initials.

Political Unit
1 August 2013

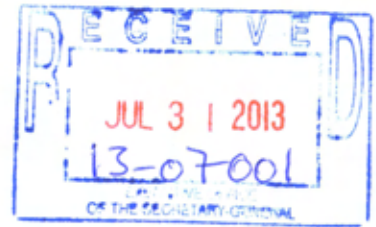
13-07001

ACTION

LAG

COPY

DSG




Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Draft reply letter from the Secretary-General to US Senators

1. I attach, for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, the draft text of his letter to US Senators, Ms. Lindsey O. Graham and Mr. John Boozman, in response to the latter's correspondence of 12 June 2013.
2. With apologies for the delay in responding, I would be grateful if you would secure the Secretary-General's approval and signature of the letter at his earliest convenience.

#13-05350

*Maina
for action pls.
Some changes
TWP.*


Maarit Kohonen Sheriff
Officer-in-Charge,
New York Office of the
High Commissioner for Human Rights

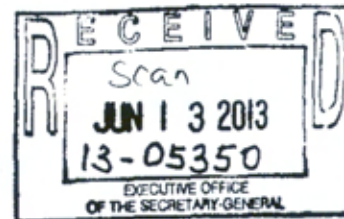
AK

31 July 2013

POL/03/004; HRT/04/003

ACTION Mr. Feltman
COPY DSG
OCHR NY
AG

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



June 12, 2013

The Honorable Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General
United Nations
UN Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary General Ki-Moon:

We write today to bring an urgent matter to your attention. In a recent meeting with former Iranian prisoners, Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh, we learned of their ordeal in Evin prison in Tehran. They strongly believe it was a call from the United Nations to the head of the Iranian judicial system that was able to improve their treatment, and ultimately help lead to their release.

Currently, there are two prisoners in Evin prison, Saeed Abedinialangashi and Farshid Fathi Malayeri. They, like Maryam and Marziyeh, were imprisoned for allegedly spreading Christianity in Iran. These two men are pastors only imprisoned for their faith, they have not committed a crime. Additionally, we know that Saeed is a U.S. citizen, and in need of immediate medical help immediately. With the upcoming election in Iran, we are concerned the Iranian government may use Saeed and Farshid as examples and continue to torture them, possibly leading to death.

We respectfully ask that you call Sadeq Ardeshir Amoli Larijani, the current head of Iran's judicial system, to advocate for their immediate release. Thank you for your help and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator