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Free Maziar Bahari: 100 global journalists petition Iran

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.



Maziar Bahari (Newsweek)

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-Wasaf*, Bahrain
Abdul Karim Al-Khawi, Yemen
Walid Al-Omari, Al-Jazeera
Christiane Amanpour, CNN
Jamal Amer, *Al-Wasaf*, 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 Pessoa*, 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 País*

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 Philips, 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 Roussel, *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

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