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UTFA Letter Regarding Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran

June 13, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
c/o H.E. Mr. Gholam Ali Khoshroo
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN
Email: iran@un.int

RE: Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran

Your Excellency:

We are writing on behalf of the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA) to call for the immediate release of our colleague, Professor Homa Hoodfar. Professor Hoodfar is a member of the faculty at Concordia University who is being detained (though she has to our knowledge not been formally charged with any offense) in Evin Prison in Tehran.

Professor Hoodfar is a well-known Canadian-Iranian anthropologist with an international scholarly profile and audience for her work. Her research is of an academic nature and she has a well-earned reputation for conducting rigorous scholarly inquiry in numerous countries in the Middle East. It is imperative in the name of academic freedom and informed international scholarly exchange that her legitimate research interests and her reputation for scholarly rigour and excellence be respected and recognized and that she not be subject to additional harassment. It is our understanding that she has been through a very trying and taxing ordeal, that she is in need of immediate medical attention, and that she needs and has not obtained legal representation.

We respectfully call for the Iranian government to release Prof. Hoodfar immediately. She must be allowed to return to Canada for medical treatment and to resume her important academic work here with

her colleagues, including numerous graduate students whose research has also been disrupted by this highly unfortunate misunderstanding.

Yours truly,

Scott Prudham
Professor, University of Toronto
President, UTFA

Linda Kohn
Professor, University of Toronto
Vice-President, UTFA

cc:
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File attachments:
UTFA Letter Regarding Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran (PDF)

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