



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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June 6, 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](mailto:iran@un.int)

**RE: Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran**

Your Excellency:

I write today on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers in order to express our deep concern with regard to the unjustified arrest of the internationally renowned anthropologist Professor Homa Hoodfar. A longstanding and highly respected member of the Canadian university community, Professor Hoodfar has been charged by judicial authorities in Iran with sedition against the State. Professor Hoodfar has had her passport seized, her personal belongings confiscated, and has been forbidden from leaving the country. Over the course of the last two months, she has been subjected to repeated and lengthy interrogations.

Far from a proponent of the seditious activities of which she is accused, Professor Hoodfar has been recognised around the world as a rigorous scholar who takes a balanced and even-handed approach to her anthropological work on Middle Eastern societies, in particular Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Iran. Exclusively academic in nature, Professor Hoodfar's research on issues ranging from household and family relations to the development challenges facing women has been translated into many languages and seeks to dispel stereotypes of Muslim cultural contexts. The unfortunate accusations of subversion against Professor Hoodfar are unfounded as all her colleagues in the international community of scholars can attest to her integrity without hesitation.

Since her arrival at Concordia University in 1991, Professor Hoodfar has become a pillar of its Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She is an admired teacher and a widely sought-after supervisor. Professor Hoodfar is currently overseeing a number of graduate student projects whose completion depends on her close attention and ongoing guidance. Professor Hoodfar's inability to leave Iran has left her students without a supervisor, thereby stalling their academic progress and interfering in no small way with their ability to finish their research-related work.

As Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, I respectfully ask that you assist in resolving this regrettable misunderstanding before the situation becomes more public.

Sincerely,



David Robinson  
Executive Director

/mmp

cc:

His Excellency, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
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