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A Note from the Chairman of the Board

I am Dr. Saeed Sajadi, chairman of the board of the US Foundation for Liberty .
I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak with you.
I hope that in this pandemic, you are taking care of yourself and your family by following the health guidelines set forth by the relevant officials and the World Health Organization.
Your safety and health if our paramount important to us because you are a member of our great family of freedom-lovers.

This health crisis requires the cooperation and solidarity of all of us so that we can reduce its adverse impact on the people. This is where humanity and attention to others show themselves well. As the renowned Persian poet of the 13th century wrote, "Human beings are members of a whole;

In creation of one essence and soul.
Other members uneasy will remain.
you cannot retain."

If one member is afflicted with pain;

If you have no sympathy for human pain;

The name of human

Here I would like to thank all my physician colleagues, dedicated nurses, and first responders who have sacrificed their lives while helping others survive during these difficult times, Your contribution is invaluable.

The Iranian people are facing many problems. Unfortunately, the criminal regime in Iran has left our people alone and is pursuing its own interests. The Iranian regime was aware of the disease, according to information provided by nurses at hospitals in various cities in Iran, which had been published in Iran since January 2020.

But because of the anniversary of the revolution on February 11 and the sham election on February 21, they kept it a secret for three weeks. Mahan Air, which is owned by the Revolutionary Guards, continued its continued it flights to and from China, despite that country being the epicenter of the COVID 19.

Worse than that cover-up is the regime understating of the fatalities of the virus. Rick Brennan, one of the directors of the World Health Organization, who traveled to Iran, said in March 17, 2020, that the actual figures are five times higher than the regime's official figures.

To this day, as I speak to you, the actual number of people who have died in Iran due to the virus is more than 35,300. Human rights abuses in Iran continue. According to Amnesty International, the regime has executed three juveniles between April 20 and April 23 and is refusing to release political prisoners who face the risk of contracting the corona-virus.

According to the April 20, 2020 annual report of Reporters Without Borders, the Iranian regime is ranked 173th among of 180 countries for censoring the news about COVID19.

The first initiative my physician colleagues in Albania and I embarked upon was to set up an online conference for people inside Iran. We succeeded in giving people guidelines to keep healthy and work on hygiene.

The Iranian people are aware of the limited facilities available to residents of the Camp in Albania. As such, they were very grateful for this valuable help. In this way, we know it is our duty to do everything we can for the people of Iran, about 70 percent of live below the poverty line and are denied medical care and access to medical facilities.

A team of Doctors without Borders, which had already gone to Iran to set up a field hospital in Iran on March 24, was deported by the regime because the mullahs wanted to hide the actual death toll.

The regime spends the wealth of the Iranian people on fomentin instability in the region, by paying thousands of its proxies in Syria, helping the terrorist Hezbollah in Lebanon and arming and financing its terrorist Shia proxy groups in the neighboring Iraq. The Revolutionary Guards and Khamenei have spent their vast resources on terrorism and have been denying the Iranian people what they need. We have decided to help the Iranian people despite the fact that we face many difficulties in meeting the basic needs of the residents.

Once again, I appeal to you to stay safe and healthy which will make us happy.

Thank you all very much.



Iran: Free Nasrin Sotoudeh

Amnesty International April 2020

In prisons across Iran, there have been people who have tested positive for COVID-19. This raises grave concerns for prisoners in Iran, including human rights lawyer and prisoner of conscience Nasrin Sotoudeh. Take action and demand she is released now.

After two grossly unfair trails, Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent Iranian human rights lawyer, was sentenced to 38 years and six months in prison and 148 lashes because of her work defending women's rights and protesting against Iran's discriminatory and degrading forced veiling laws. Nasrin has dedicated her life to peaceful human rights works.

Now, in prisons across Iran, there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19. This raises grave fears that prisoners, like Nasrin, are at risk of contracting the virus. Prisoners are at particular risk because they are unable to take the same social distancing and hygiene measures as those outside of prison to protect themselves.

Across Iran, prisoners have pleaded with officials to address overcrowded, unhygienic and unsanitary conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 infections, raising alarms about the authorities' failure to sufficiently protect prison populations from the spread of the virus. Some prisoners have been denied adequate medical care, leaving them at greater risk from the virus if contracted.



Iran: Execution of young man 'vengeful and cruel'

Amnesty International April 21, 2020

Iranian officials executed Shayan Saeedpour, 21, this morning in the central prison in Saqez, Kurdistan province.

A criminal court in Kurdistan province had sentenced him to death in October 2018 after convicting him of murder. The conviction was in connection with the fatal stabbing of a man during a fight in August 2015. Shayan Saeedpour was 17 years old at the time.



Shayan Saeedpour's execution was vengeful and cruel **Diana Eltahawy**

"Shayan Saeedpour's execution was vengeful and cruel," said Diana Eltahawy, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"The use of the death penalty against Shayan - a child with a long history of mental illness - was strictly prohibited. By proceeding with his execution despite international opposition, the Iranian authorities have yet again made a mockery of juvenile justice.

"The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and its use against people who were below the age of 18 at the time of the crime is banned under international law. Our annual Death Penalty report shows that Iran is one of a small minority of countries in the world that still use the death penalty against people in that category. This is abhorrent and must stop."

Women and Religious Freedom



U.S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, ANUAL REPORT 2020

In April, Iran's Guidance Patrol (Gasht-e Ershad) in Tehran summoned hundreds of women to its headquarters for driving or riding in cars without headscarves. The women were forced to promise to cover their heads in cars.

USCIRF Religious Prisoner of Conscience Golrokh Iraee was released on bail from Evin Prison in April 2019 but rearrested in November following a conviction by Judge Iman Afshari of Branch 26 of the

Tehran Revolutionary Court for "insulting the supreme leader" and "propaganda against the state."

Iraee had been jailed in 2016 for an unpublished story criticizing the practice of stoning women to death for adultery. In August 2019, Judge Afshari sentenced Saba Kord Afshari to an unenforceable 24 years in prison for protesting the mandatory head covering.

Lawyer Nasrin Soutoudeh was sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes after defending women who had removed their headscarves in public as a protest.