



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Dennis Van Roekel  
*President*

Lily Eskelsen  
*Vice President*

Rebecca S. Pringle  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

John I. Wilson  
*Executive Director*

June 22, 2009

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

Thank you for your close attention over the past two weeks to the developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On behalf of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, I write to you with deep concerns regarding an imprisoned Iranian educator, Farzad Kamanger, and the continued violations of human and trade union rights in Iran. The United States' support of free and fair elections, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and other basic human rights is critical for Iran.

NEA is an affiliate of Education International, the global union federation that represents over 30 million educators organized in 401 member organizations in 172 countries. In solidarity with Iranian teachers, we support the campaign "Justice for Workers," which is led by Education International, the International Trade Union Federation, and other global union federations.

Teacher Farzad Kamangar, in an unfair trial without compelling evidence, has a death sentence by the Tehran Revolutionary Court. He has faced continual torture and threats during his time in prison. This teacher, with 12 years of experience in the rural areas of Kamyaran in the Kurdistan Province, survives today because of international pressure to save his life. I ask that you continue to press for a release of Mr. Farzad Kamanger.

The Iranian Coordinating Council of Iranian Education Workers and Teachers' Trade Associations has faced government disruption and violence. Since the 2007 decree by the Ministry of Interior that suspended the activities of the Teachers Trade Association, its members have been assaulted and detained each time they have sought to meet. This continual disregard by the Iranian government of core labor standards and human rights is unacceptable.

June 22, 2009

Page 2

I ask that you advocate at this juncture for the release of falsely accused Farzad Kamanger and an immediate end to the repression of the Iranian Coordinating Council of Iranian Education Workers and Teachers' Trade Associations in Iran. The advocacy of the Administration, in harmony with other nation states concerned about fundamental human and trade union rights in Iran, is essential. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Van Roekel".

Dennis Van Roekel  
President

Copies:

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mahmud Ahmadinejad  
Education International