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Subject: FW: Amnesty International: Iran successes, news and call to action

Date: October 19, 2016 at 10:46:55 AM CDT

Dear Friends:

Thanks to your untiring efforts, we have received a few pieces of good news on Iran the past couple of months. First of all Omid Kokabee, the talented young physicist pursuing doctoral research at the University of Texas, Austin who had been arrested in January 2011 and sentenced to ten years in prison on unsubstantiated national security charges, was [granted a conditional release from prison](#); he had been out of prison on a medical furlough for several months to receive much needed medical care--including an operation to remove a kidney--and will not have to report back to prison. Amnesty International declared him to be a prisoner of conscience and Amnesty activists sent tens of thousands of letters and signatures on petitions to the Iranian authorities calling for Omid Kokabee's release. Amnesty's Rhythm and Rights program collected thousands more signatures on petitions collected at concerts they tabled. Amnesty worked closely with many organizations including the Committee of Concerned Scientists, the American Physical Society, the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran and Scholars at Risk, as well as Omid's many friends and colleagues at the University of Texas, among others. We reached out to all the living Nobel Physics prize laureates and thirty-three of these eminent scientists sent letters to the Iranian government urging Omid Kokabee's release. We delivered these letters together with many other letters and petitions to the Iran U.N. Mission in New York. Iranian-American actor and comedian Maz Jobrani also taped a statement calling for Omid Kokabee's release. Omid Kokabee had been included in several of Amnesty International's Nowruz Actions and his family informed us how delighted Omid and his family were to receive so many cards from caring people in the US and other countries. We were alarmed when Omid Kokabee was diagnosed with kidney cancer. He was only granted medical furlough after his disease had become very critical. Because of your activism he was allowed to get proper medical care and ultimately granted his conditional release. He is now recovering with his family and picking up his Physics studies.

In another victory, women's rights activist and student activist Bahareh Hedayat was released from prison in early September. She had originally been arrested in late 2009 and Amnesty activists and partners had been working tirelessly on her case ever since. She was sentenced to a total of ten years in prison on spurious charges and was a prisoner of conscience. Bahareh has also been featured in Amnesty's annual Nowruz Actions. She had originally been released for medical treatment but her husband then posted on Instagram and said “tonight the news that we have awaited for seven years has come...that Bahareh has been released...” In releasing Bahareh Hedayat, the authorities applied Article 134 of the 2013 Islamic Penal Code, which meant that she qualified for release, as she had already served the lengthiest of her prison sentences.

Also, Homa Hoodfar, an Iranian-Canadian professor who had been arrested in Iran in June, was released and allowed to return to Canada in late September:

Now for two calls to action.

1) First--please take action on the case of Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran, a 22-year-old Iran Kurdish woman who has been sentenced to death for the murder of her husband which took place when she was just 17. She has alleged she was tortured and forced to confess to the crime. Iran is one of a tiny handful of countries that still execute juvenile offenders, in violation of international law. Please see this:

Please help us to raise attention to Zeinab's case by sharing the News Flash, along with the social media graphic and her picture attached. Below are some suggested tweets:

*#Iran: @khamenei_ir Don't execute Iranian Kurdish woman, arrested aged 17 and tortured in detention
#SaveZeinab*

#Iran @khamenei_ir must halt the execution of 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman after unfair trial #SaveZeinab

#Iran: Don't execute 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman after torture and unfair trial #SaveZeinab @khamenei_ir

*#Iran must halt execution of Iranian Kurdish woman Zeinab Sekaanvand, arrested aged 17 #SaveZeinab
@khamenei_ir*

2) Please sign yourself or your group up for Amnesty International's annual Write4Rights, which is taking place between now and December 31. One of the cases this year is Zeynab Jalalian, another Iranian-Kurdish woman who had been sentenced to death on charges of ties to a militant Kurdish group after an unfair trial that lasted just a few minutes. Her sentence was eventually commuted to life in prison. She was severely tortured in detention and is now going blind. We need to get her the medical attention she needs so she does not lose her eyesight.

<http://write.amnestyusa.org/?ac=icarcamp>