

From: Elise Auerbach--AIIS <aiis@uchicago.edu>
Subject: Maz Jobrani message in support of Campaign to Release Omid
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To: American Institute of Indian Studies <aiis@uchicago.edu>

Dear Friends:

Maz Jobrani, the well known Iranian-American comedian, has taped a message of support for our campaign to release a talented young Iranian physicist and prisoner of conscience Omid Kokabee. Please see the links to the video below: Many activists and organizations have been working tirelessly on this case since Omid was arrested in January 2011. Our efforts have been supported by 28 Nobel Physics Laureates who have signed letters to Iran's Supreme Leader calling for Omid's release. Omid's health is precarious and he suffers from kidney, stomach, heart and dental problems, exacerbated by the miserable conditions in Evin Prison, where he is being held. A few days ago we heard some hopeful news--that Omid's ten year prison sentence is going to be reconsidered. Now is the time to press the authorities to release Omid immediately.

Below find: 1) the links to Maz Jobrani's video statement; 2) a piece on the 28 Nobel Laureates letter calling for Omid's release; 3) Amnesty International's urgent action on Omid Kokabee; 4) news about the review of Omid's prison sentence. Please distribute the Maz Jobrani video to all your contacts. Thank you.

1. [Maz Jobrani Joins Campaign for Release of Omid Kokabee](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/10/maz-jobrani-omid-kokabee/)

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/10/maz-jobrani-omid-kokabee/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJPEV2HKzNg>

In a video message, Maz Jobrani, the prominent Iranian-American actor and comedian, joins 28 Nobel laureates to call for the Iranian Judiciary's immediate release of Omid Kokabee, the imprisoned Iranian physicist. Jobrani calls attention to Kokabee's imprisonment on false charges after an unfair trial, and the multiple and serious **health ailments** Kokabee is suffering from that have gone untreated while he has been imprisoned, which require urgent medical attention.

Kokabee, an Iranian physicist completing his PhD at the University of Texas, Austin, was arrested in January 2011 at Tehran's International Airport, where he was about to return from visiting with his family. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, on charges of "communicating with a hostile government," and receiving "illegitimate funds" without any substantiating evidence for either charge. In an **open letter** from Evin Prison in April 2013, Kokabee wrote his imprisonment is the result of his refusal to heed pressure by Iranian intelligence agents to collaborate on a military research project.

In an open letter to Iran's Leader, Ali Khamenei, **28 physics Nobel laureates** called for the "immediate and unconditional" release of Kokabee. In their letter, the Nobel laureates referred to charges against Kokabee as "spurious charges related to [Kokabee's] legitimate scholarly ties with academic institutions outside of Iran." The September 2014 letter was published in the leading scientific journal *Nature*. In 2013, the American Physical Society (APS), a major organization representing some 50,000 physicists worldwide, awarded him its prestigious Sakharov prize.

2. Read about the 28 Nobel Physics Laureates letter calling for Omid Kokabee's release at:
<http://blog.amnestyusa.org/middle-east/28-distinguished-nobel-physics-laureates-support-imprisoned-colleague-in-iran/>

3. Amnesty urgent action on Omid Kokabee:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/052/2014/en>

4. Latest Hopeful news about the reconsideration of Omid Kokabee's sentence:
<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/10/retrial-kokabee/>

Best wishes,

Elise Auerbach

Iran country specialist, Amnesty International USA