

# Statement by Iranian Human Rights Activist in North America on the occasion of International Human Rights Day

December 9, 2010

December 10 is International Human Rights Day; A day to safeguard all the achievements to humanize the world. Without a doubt this struggle symbolizes the most valor aspect of human beings in their attempts to bring about peace, freedom, social justice and human greatness to the world. Of course present situation in the world especially those of the less developed emerging countries is far from this desire. That is why all attempts by the people of these countries require the support of those countries who poses a higher standard of value for human rights.

The review of the Islamic Republic in the past 32 years shows systematic and organized abuse of human rights where the regime has always resorted to violent crackdown against demands for freedom by its people. Hostility to human rights is at the structural and legal core of the Islamic Republic. As we approach the International Human Rights day, our country is living at the darkest moment in terms of respect for human rights. The high and shameful volume of executions, making it the highest number in the world, Imprisonment of hundreds of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, gender discrimination, harassment of the Baha'is, new Christians, Jews and the Zoroastrian religious minorities, and censorship of the press, suppression of ethnic minorities, usage of physiological and physical torture, forced confession and making the prisoners to repent, issuing harsh and barbaric verdicts such as stoning and severing body parts, interfering in private domain and social freedom, attack on the universities and depriving the student leaders from continued education, expulsion of independent university professors in the context of forced retirement, interference of government in modification of social science text books, arrest of independent volunteer lawyers, ideological and gender discrimination in accepting students in the universities, violent crackdown of peaceful gatherings, preventing formation of workers syndicates, banning and dissolving all independent associations, political and opposition parties, are just a few examples of present dark days in Iran.

Therefore, we a group of human rights organizations active in North America, worried about the condition of human rights in Iran remind the regime of the Islamic Republic, to respect the rights and to end its disregard for the human rights of the Iranian people. This is not only the call by the Iranian people but also by other countries as well.

We demand that the UN Secretary General and the European Union pressure Iran on its human rights condition and not be deceit by Iran's release of a few prisoners.

Presence of a special UN rapporteur and the freedom by it to monitor and collect information can be a good beginning. Certainly the immediate and unconditional release of

all detainees, Political and Conscience, along with removal of limitations against press, student organizations, trade unions, political and human rights organizations, is a precondition to better the condition of human rights situation in Iran.

We also demand that death penalty be abolished in Iran. Increase in the crime rate in Iran, rejects the claim that such punishment will solve the social problems as claimed by those favoring it, but rather will increase the atmosphere of hatred in our society.

We learn from the UN Declaration of Human Rights that materialization of a world with free expression and opinion and without fear and poverty is the highest human desire.

In the excruciating condition in Iran where the regime utilizing all means against the human rights defenders inside Iran, where achievement of the rights by our fellow countrymen for freedom is nearly impossible, it is our duty to coordinate our effort outside Iran with the help of International Community to echo the voices of the people for freedom and dignity and to pressure the Islamic Republic to respect the human rights of Iranian people.

### **List of Signatories:**

Solidarity Committee to Protect the Iranian People's Will

United4Iran

Boston Iranians Coalition

Union for Advancement of Secular Democracy in Iran (North America)

PORSA

Austin for Iran (Student chapter)

One million voices for Iran campaign