January 2018

President

Hassan Rouhani

Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square

Tehran

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Your Excellency,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Belgium, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing you on behalf of R**eza Entesari, Kasra Nouri, Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam, Mehdi Eskandari, Hesam Moini,   
Morteza Kangarloo, Amir Nouri** and **Sina Entesari,**

These **eight Gonabadi Dervishes** were arrested on 20 February 2018 in 7th Golestan Street in Tehran as the police and *Basij* militia raided the house of Dr. Noorali Tabandeh, spiritual leader (*Qutb)* of the Gonabadi Dervishes in Iran. The Tehran Revolutionary Court (Branch 15) sentenced the eight Gonabadi to heavy prison terms and/or lashes, exile or ban to leave the country. They have been imprisoned at the *Fashafouyeh* prison, near Tehran. On 29 August 2018, security guards raided their cell in ward 3 of the prison. After being held *incommunicado* within the penitentiary for almost 4 months the eight Gonabadi have been transferred in a security ward, where a phone contact with the families was made possible. However, the conditions of their *incommunicado* detention still remain unclear.

The prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment (among which *incommunicado* detention), and the rights to life, to personal security and to be treated with humanity as a detainee, to communicate with the counsel of one’s own choice, to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and of peaceful assembly, are enshrined in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which the Islamic Republic of Iran is Party to, and thus is bound to respect.

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Reza Entesari, Kasra Nouri, Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam, Mehdi Eskandari, Hesam Moini, Morteza Kangarloo, Amir Nouri and Sina Entesari**,** and I urge you to:

* Order an immediate enquiry about their exact whereabouts and inform their families about it;
* Order their immediate and unconditional release if they are detained solely because they belong to the Gonabadi Dervish minority, or because of their belief/peaceful activities in this movement;
* Pending their release, protect them against torture or other ill-treatment; grant their families and lawyers regular access to them, and provide them with all necessary medical support;
* Order an enquiry about their *secret* detention and possible violence committed against them by the security forces, and search for, prosecute and judge the responsible of such violence.

Seizing the opportunity of this letter, I can’t help reiterating my call for the immediate release of Dr **Ahmad Rheza Djalali**, a VUB (Belgian-Swedish) professor sentenced to death in 2017, as well as for showing clemency towards any human rights defender or political prisoner.

I thank you for the attention you will give to these concerns.

Yours respectfully,

Name

Address

Signature