



LAKE FOREST
COLLEGE

June 12, 2006

His Excellency Mohammad Javad Zarif
Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

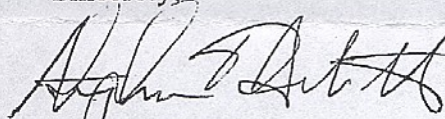
Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The de facto exclusion of Iran's Bahá'í community from your nation's universities is deeply troubling. From what I understand, although Iranian students are no longer required to declare their religion when applying to take the national university entrance examination, Bahá'ís who have taken this examination are being wrongly classified as Muslim when notified of their results. Bahá'í students are understandably opposed to matriculating on this basis, especially in light of their community's long and painful history of religious persecution.

As you know, Iran has signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which says that "higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means." This principle must be honored in the case of the Bahá'í community, and steps must be taken to halt the systematic discrimination and harassment to which Bahá'ís are subject in Iran.

Thank you for giving this letter your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Schutt

cc: Secretary-General Kofi Annan