

THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

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18 February 2009

The Rt. Hon David Miliband MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Dear David,

You will recall that I wrote to you on 23 May 2008 to express our concern over the arrest and detention a few days earlier of six Bahá'í leaders in Iran. They are Mrs Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr Afif Naeimi, Mr Saeid Rezaie, Mr Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mr Vahid Tizfahm and Mrs Mahvash Sabet .

We now understand that they have been charged variously with espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctity and undermining the Islamic Republic of Iran. These are clearly spurious charges, and it is believed that this step may herald a major crackdown on the Bahais' Iranian national leadership. You will also recall that we had noted that these arrests are reminiscent of similar episodes in the 1980s, when scores of Iranian Bahá'í leaders were summarily rounded up and executed.

The Bahá'ís are committed to non-partisanship and non-violence, and continue to be the victims of well-documented efforts by the Iranian government to harass their members since the Islamic Revolution.

We understand that Foreign Office ministers have made the British Government's concerns known to the Iranian government, but we would now urge you to make it publicly clear to the Iranian leadership that they are under international scrutiny, and that those who campaign for human rights for all peoples will not hesitate to hold the Iranian leadership accountable in international forums if they proceed with their plans.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry".

Henry Grunwald QC
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "With warm regards".

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