

To: Tessa Jcrine  
Natalie Mobini  
Michael Day

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Various views to  
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# Concerns over Iran Baha'i jail terms

By Jenna Hand

The Australian Government is "deeply concerned" about the treatment of seven Baha'is who have reportedly been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in Iran.

The five men and two women, who are members of Iran's largest religious minority, have been convicted of spying for Israel, "insulting religious sanctities" and spreading "propaganda against the Islamic Republic".

A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman said the Government had expressed its concerns about the treatment of Baha'is to the Iranian Government on many occasions.

"We continue to call on Iran to ensure that all trials are fair and transparent and are conducted in accordance with Iran's international obligations," he said.

A spokesman for the Australian Baha'i community, Michael Day, said the seven were arrested between March and May in 2008 and held without charge until January this year, when they faced trial after being given less than an hour with their legal counsel.

"Australian Baha'is feel outraged that these innocent people have been convicted of anything, let alone sentenced to 20 years in jail," he said.

Amin Tavakoli, who came to Australia from Iran as a refugee in 1985 after being tortured for his beliefs, said he was worried about his brother, Behruz Tavakoli.

"He is nearly 60 and if he lives, he will be 80 years old when he comes out of prison," he said.

"Arresting them was not just, keeping them in prison was not just, and taking them to court and giving them 20 years was not just. All of them, they are innocent."

He said Behruz, a former psychology lecturer, dedicated his time to assisting people in his community and was particularly devoted to those with disabilities.

He said his brother and the other six Baha'i community leaders would appeal against their sentences.

# Portrait evokes vulnerability

By Belinda Cranston

Brisbane artist Michael Zavros grappled with deep-seated insecurities about his children while painting what has gone on to win the world's richest portrait prize.

Zavros was awarded the 2010 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, and with it \$150,000, for his work *Phoebe is Dead/McQueen* at the State Library of NSW yesterday.

Now in its 23rd year, the money is three times that awarded to the winner of the Archibald Prize, which this year awarded a top prize of \$50,000.

Zavros's portrait of his five-year-old daughter, Phoebe, lying down while draped in a scarf by the late British fashion designer Alexander McQueen, was chosen over a striking self-portrait by last year's winner, Ben Quilty.

It also beat Frances Giacco's portrait of Australian artist Charles Blackman, who is rarely painted because of his failing health.

Other famous subjects entered in this year's Moran portrait prize included a painting of broadcaster Alan Jones by Alesandro Ljubicic, a portrait of businessman Rupert Murdoch looking benevolent by Adam James K, and another of Kings Cross hiker identity Animal Nelson by Guy Masetri.

It is not clear if Zavros's daughter is meant to be dead in his portrait, or pretending to be dead.

The scarf covering her is stamped with skulls, but her cheeks are rosy, her lips red and her toenails painted a pale sky blue.

"It is quite playful," Zavros said. "It was important that her cheeks were rosy, that there was a flush of life in his body and that there was always a question, that this child could be playing dead, as she does constantly... I wanted to make sure that that element was there."



"PLAYFUL": Michael Zavros with his daughter, Phoebe, who is the subject of his portrait.

Zavros said the portrait revealed deep-seated insecurities he felt since becoming a parent.

"I think our children make us incredibly vulnerable to love and to all sorts of things I could never have

imagined," he said. "It exposes you to the possibility of loss."

The scarf symbolises life, he said, following the suicide earlier this year

# Paedophile teacher 'poisoned' her

By Michelle Draper

The lives of two men have been "poisoned and eroded" by a teacher who sexually abused them when they were eight years old, a court has heard.

Josephine Greensill sexually assaulted two of her students in a tent she erected in the backyard of her Melbourne home in the late 1970s.

Greensill, 59, was jailed yesterday

for five years after a Victorian County Court jury found her guilty of nine counts involving kissing, indecent touching and sexual penetration.

Greensill's trial heard she persistently asked the mother of one of the boys to let him sleep over until the mother relented.

"Your offending on this day was premeditated," Judge Gabriele Cannon said in sentencing Greensill.

She said Greensill's crimes had

"poisoned and eroded each of the complainants. Cannon described the abuse, which occurred while her husband and children were at home, as "heinous and tardy".

Greensill, a mother of two, lives in Altona Meadows, a suburb of Melbourne. Several family members and friends called out to her during the trial and "We know you're

# Retirement villages object

By Noel Towell  
Chief Assembly Reporter

The ACT Government's efforts to tighten regulation of the local retirement village industry has set it on a collision course with village operators.

The industry's peak group says the Government's proposed new rules are not needed, could cause confusion among residents and owners and jeopardise the building of much-needed new retirement village beds.

Government MLA Mary Porter is consulting on legislative changes designed to offer the territory's 2500

village residents greater transparency in their contracts of occupancy and more certainty on the charges they pay after they have moved into a village.

The local industry currently operates under a code of conduct but Ms Porter wants to enact legislation that will impose legally binding requirements on retirement community owners.

The Ginninderra MLA says her consultations with retirees have shown that many residents are unhappy with the current arrangements and they want to see legally enforceable rules governing their

contracts. "People are telling me that they're very pleased that I'm doing this and that the current code of practice isn't working for them," Ms Porter said.

"They don't believe its got sufficient teeth."

Ms Porter said that the main areas of concern were the transparency of contracts, prospective residents being unclear about the terms of their occupancy, particularly around fees and charges, and how much influence residents ultimately had over the running of their villages.

"People also felt that there wasn't a clear way forward to prosecute

disputes and have them Ms Porter said.

But Retirement Village NSW and ACT regional Mark Eagleston said they already enjoyed good relations with residents and their families that changes from the code of practice to prescriptive legislation neither required nor benefited the industry.

"Residents are over happy with living in retirement villages with surveys indicating a satisfaction rate of in excess of 90 per cent," Mr Eagleston said.

"We support the new

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A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman said the Government had expressed its concerns about the treatment of Baha'is to the Iranian Government on many occasions.

"We continue to call on Iran to ensure that all trials are fair and transparent and are conducted in accordance with Iran's international obligations," he said.

A spokesman for the Australian Baha'i community, Michael Day, said the seven were arrested between March and May in 2008 and held without charge until January this year, when they faced trial after being given less than an hour with their legal counsel.

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appropriate to consider changes to the local regulatory regime at a time when an overhaul of the national system was being considered by the Productivity Commission.

"To have further amendments take place a short time after the introduc-

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Justin Cooper's "wonderfully eccentric graphic piece", a diptych titled *Blossom Cooper*, was highly