



**International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group  
Coalition pour la surveillance des libertés civiles**

338 Somerset Street West,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K2P 0J9

Ottawa, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P.**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0G2

Email: [stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Dion,

I am writing you as the National Coordinator of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring (ICLMG), regarding the troubling case of the Canadian scholar and academic, Dr. Homa Hoodfar.

As many other Canadians, we heard the sad news through media reports and we are deeply concerned about the safety and well being of Dr. Homa Hoodfar while she is in detention in Iran at the notorious Evin prison.

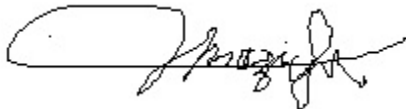
Ms. Homa Hoodfar is a well-respected academic in Canada who conducted many studies about Muslim women in Islamic societies. Her writings and opinions are not considered anti-Islam or controversial. She is a voice of reason always in search of improving women's rights.

We are aware and appreciative that you and your parliamentary secretary, Mr. Omar Alhabra, are following the case very closely. Nevertheless, we strongly believe that following the case and monitoring it will not be enough to obtain the release of Dr. Homa Hoodfar.

Unfortunately, we are concerned that since Dr. Homa Hoodfar is a dual-citizen, she is being used as a “bargaining chip” in negotiations with Canada on other cases and other issues. This is why Canada should speak at the very highest levels with Iranian officials and explicitly demand the release of Dr. Homa Hoodfar. The decision to close the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa taken by the Conservative government is costing us today too many Canadians laying in Iranian prisons.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau should be speaking with his Iranian counterpart and demanding the release of Dr. Homa Hoodfar while pushing for reestablishing the diplomatic relations between Canada and Iran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mazigh', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Monia Mazigh

National Coordinator

Cc: Omar Alhabra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs)

Hélène Laverdière, New Democratic Party Critic for Foreign Affairs