



HARVARD
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 28, 2011

Ambassador Mohammad Khazee
Permanent Mission of the Islamic republic of Iran in the United Nations
622 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Khazee:

I am writing to express my concern regarding reports I have received from alumni of the Harvard Graduate School of Education concerning alleged mistreatment of Bahá'í students and scholars at the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE). Specifically, it has been reported that in May 2011 the Iranian government launched a coordinated attack against the BIHE raiding dozens of homes, confiscating computers and materials, and detaining a number of the institutions professors and administrators. Further, it has been reported that the BIHE has been declared illegal by the government, and that in recent weeks seven members of BIHE academic community were sentenced to between four and five years in prison, simply for trying to teach.

The right to education is accepted as one of the basic rights of all individuals under article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which Iran is a signatory. I ask that you respond to these allegations noted above and provide any clarifying information you might have, such that the international higher education community can have a thorough understanding of the Bahá'í situation in Iran. Above all, I ask that Iranian officials release any imprisoned BIHE professors and administrators, allow BIHE to operate peacefully as it has in the past, and allow all youth, including those of the Bahá'í faith, unencumbered entrance to state universities in Iran.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McCartney
Dean
Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Early Childhood Development

cc: Robert Quinn, Scholars at Risk Network
Jacqueline Bhabha, University Adviser on Human Rights Education to the
Provost at Harvard University