



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

June 15, 2016

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Detainment of Professor Dr. Homa Hoodfar in Iran

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations – an organization representing over 17,000 university professors and academic librarians in Ontario -- to express our profound concern regarding the arrest and interrogation of Professor Homa Hoodfar and to call on your government to do everything in its power to secure her release and safe return to Canada.

Professor Hoodfar is a renowned anthropologist and a well-respected member of the Canadian university community who has taught, supervised students, and conducted research in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Montreal's Concordia University since 1991. Professor Hoodfar has been charged by Iranian judicial authorities with sedition against the State – charges for which no evidence has been presented – and subjected to lengthy and repeated interrogation. She has had her passport seized, her personal belongings confiscated, and has been forbidden from leaving the country.

Professor Hoodfar's academic research investigates issues ranging from household and family relations to the development challenges facing women in Middle Eastern societies, in particular Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Iran. Her work is well regarded by her academic colleagues and an international community of scholars. The accusations of subversion being levelled against Professor Hoodfar are unfounded. Far from a proponent of the seditious activities of which she is accused, Professor Hoodfar is a rigorous scholar who takes a balanced and even-handed approach to her anthropological research.

OCUFA

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On behalf of faculty across Ontario, I urge you and your government in the most unequivocal terms to do everything in your power to obtain Professor Hoodfar's immediate release and safe return to Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Bates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Judy Bates
President, OCUFA

Cc:
Hon. Stephane Dion
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2