



# INTERNATIONAL PEN

## LUCINA KATHMANN, INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

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**Lucina Kathmann**

Apdo. 287,  
San Miguel de Allende  
37700 Gto. Mexico  
fax 52 415 1520614  
email:  
lucina.kathmann@gmail.com

**International PEN:**

Brownlow House  
50/51 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6ER  
United Kingdom

fax 44 20 7253 6133

email:

[info@internationalpen.org.uk](mailto:info@internationalpen.org.uk)

**International  
President:**

Jiri Grusa

**International  
Secretary:**

Eugene Schoulgin

**International PEN Women  
Writers Committee**

**Chair:**

Judith Buckrich  
Flat 3, 2 Lucy Street  
Gardenvale Vic 3185  
Australia  
[buckrich@bigpond.net.au](mailto:buckrich@bigpond.net.au)

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President  
His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi, Minister of Justice,  
His Excellency Mr. Manuchehr Motaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Re: Iranian Kurdish writers **Adnan Hassanpour**, **Abdolvahed Botimar** and  
**Saman Rasoulpour** and **Massoud Kurdpour**

Your Excellencies,

The writers of the San Miguel, Mexico center of International PEN, the largest worldwide association of writers, are concerned about the situation for our Iranian Kurdish colleagues. In recent years many Kurdish writers have been detained, tried, given long prison sentences, and even in some cases have received death sentences. (Fortunately now these have been quashed on appeal.) **Adnan Hassanpour**, **Abdolvahed Botimar** and **Saman Rasoulpour** and **Massoud Kurdpour** are four such writers.

While of course it is a great relief to us that the court recently quashed the death sentence against **Adnan Hassanpour**, we continue to be concerned that these writers remain in detention in bad prison conditions and in some cases face new trials.

None of these men are violent people who pose a risk to the Iranian people. They are writers who have perhaps expressed unpopular views, which should be their right according to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We urge you to intervene to free our colleagues **Adnan Hassanpour**, **Abdolvahed Botimar** and **Saman Rasoulpour** and **Massoud Kurdpour** and to promote a better climate of freedom of expression for the Iranian Kurdish community and for all Iranians.

Sincerely,

Lucina Kathmann  
International Vice-president, International PEN