

INTERNATIONAL PEN

FOUNDED 1921

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RAPID ACTION NETWORK

26 October 2009

RAN 26/09 – Update #1

IRAN: Canadian-Iranian journalist, writer, film-maker and playwright released

The Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC) of International PEN welcomes the release on bail of leading Canadian-Iranian journalist, writer and film-maker Maziar Bahari, on 17 October 2009. International PEN reminds the Iranian authorities of their obligations to Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and continues to call for the charges against Maziar Bahari to be dropped.

According to PEN's information, *Newsweek* correspondent Maziar Bahari, aged 42, was released on 17 October 2009 from Evin prison, on a bail of approximately \$300,000. He had been detained since 21 June 2009, and is among around one hundred opposition leaders and dissidents accused of fomenting a 'velvet revolution' following the disputed presidential elections on 12 June. Bahari's arrest is part of a major crackdown on dissent which has seen unprecedented restrictions on the foreign media in Iran.

Maziar Bahari is believed to have been released on humanitarian grounds, two days before his wife gave birth to the couple's first child. He has now been allowed to leave Iran and is reunited with his family.

Further information:

Newsweek news report, click [here](#)

CBC.ca click [here](#)

PLEASE SEND APPEALS:

- Welcoming the release of Canadian-Iranian journalist and writer Maziar Bahari;
- Urging the Iranian authorities to drop the charges against Maziar Bahari;
- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all those currently detained in Iran in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a signatory.

APPEALS TO:

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,

The Office of the Supreme Leader

Shoahada Street, Qom

Islamic Republic of Iran

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani

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Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737
Islamic Republic of Iran

COPIES TO:

President:

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency,
Palestine Avenue,
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

If possible please send a copy of your appeal to the diplomatic representative for Iran in your country.

Please check with this office if sending appeals after 19 November 2009

For further information please contact Cathy McCann at International PEN Writers in Prison Committee, Brownlow House, 50/51 High Holborn, London WC1V 6ER, Tel.+ 44 (0) 20 7405 0338, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7405 0339, email: cathy.mccann@internationalpen.org.uk