

INTERNATIONAL PEN

FOUNDED 1921

Jiří Gruša
International President

Eugene Schougin
International Secretary

Eric Lax
International Treasurer

Caroline McCormick
Executive Director



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

e-mail: info@internationalpen.org.uk website: www.internationalpen.org.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 20 7405 0338 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7405 0339

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid Keshvar Doust Street,
Tehran,
Islamic Republic of Iran.

COPIES TO:

President:

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

10 July 2009

Your Excellency,

International PEN, the world association of writers representing members in 104 countries, strongly protests the continued detention of leading Canadian-Iranian journalist, editor, playwright and film-maker Maziar Bahari. He is among scores of journalists and leading reformists to have been arrested in Iran following the disputed presidential elections on 12 June 2009. Concerns for his well-being are mounting.

According to PEN's information, *Newsweek* correspondent Maziar Bahari, who has lived and worked in Tehran for the past ten years and who has dual Canadian-Iranian citizenship, was arrested on 21 June 2009. He remains detained incommunicado without charge. International PEN is gravely concerned by an alleged 'confession' published on 30 June 2009 by an Iranian state news agency, in which Bahari admits to participating in an alleged Western media effort to promote irresponsible reporting in Iran. Maziar Bahari is a widely respected and award-winning commentator on Iranian issues, and his arrest is part of a major crackdown on dissent which has seen unprecedented restrictions on the foreign media in Iran. There have been widespread arbitrary arrests of journalists and leading reformist figures, in flagrant violation of Iran's commitments to human rights and free expression under the Iranian constitution.

International PEN reminds the Iranian authorities of their obligations to Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it is a signatory, and calls for the

Presidents Emeritus: Homero Aridjis • Ronald Harwood CBE • Francis King CBE • György Konrád • Mario Vargas Llosa • Per Wästberg

Vice Presidents: Margaret Atwood • Andrei Bitov • Alexandre Blokh • Sook-Hee Chun • J.M. Coetzee • Georges Emmanuel Clancier
Moris Farhi MBE • Gloria Guardia • Nadine Gordimer • Nancy Ing • Lucina Kathmann • Joanne Leedom-Ackerman • Predrag Matvejevic
Toni Morrison • Boris A. Novak • Antonio Olinto • Michael Scammell • Thomas von Vegesack

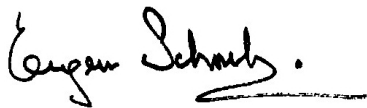
Board: International President • International Secretary • International Treasurer • Cecilia Balcázar • Michael Butscher
Takeaki Hori • Mohamed Magani • Elisabeth Nordgren • Kristin T. Schneider • Haroon Siddiqui

immediate and unconditional release of Maziar Bahari and all those currently detained in Iran for peacefully exercising their right to free expression.

We would welcome your comments on this matter.



Jiří Gruša - International President



Eugene Schougin - International Secretary



Karin Clark – Writers in Prison Committee Chair