

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them

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Your Excellencies:

**RE: DEMAND FOR THE END OF HARASSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORTER KOUHYAR GOUDARZI**

Lawyers' Rights Watch of Canada (LRWC) demands that the Iranian government immediately cease the continued and unlawful harassment of Kouhyar Goudarzi. LRWC submits that the harassment of Kouhyar Goudarzi is an attempt to silence his legitimate human rights activities and that his sentence of "imprisonment in internal exile" is not provided for in Iranian legislation.

Mr. Goudarzi was arrested in Tehran in July 2011, and was convicted on charges of “propaganda against the system” and “assembly and collusion against the system” on February 26, 2012. Mr. Goudarzi launched an appeal of the conviction but remained detained in Section 209 of Evin prison under the control of the Ministry of Intelligence. On April 12, 2012, Mr. Goudarzi was released on bail pending appeal.

LRWC has been informed that on September 15, 2012, the Tehran Province Court of Appeals upheld the sentence of five years’ imprisonment in internal exile that had been issued against Mr. Goudarzi. Mr. Goudarzi’s lawyer, Dr. Alizadeh Tabatabaei, was previously told by the appeal judge that he would issue an acquittal verdict. Dr. Tabatabaei believes that the upholding of Mr. Goudarzi’s sentencing is the result of the unlawful influence of the Ministry of Intelligence over the Court of Appeals. Mr. Goudarzi now faces the possibility of arbitrary arrest at any moment.

The sentencing of Kouhyar Goudarzi is in clear contravention of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, specifically:

Article 1: “Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.”

Article 5: “For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels:

(b) To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups.”

Article 12.2: “The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”

Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada demands that the harassment of Mr. Kouhyar Goudarzi cease and that his sentence of 5 years be reversed immediately. We urge you to provide a response.

Write to LRWC by mail, e-mail or fax to advise us of your actions to do the following:

- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Kouhyar Goudarzi;
- Put an end to any kind of harassment, including at the judicial level, against Mr. Kouhyar Goudarzi; and
- Ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by Iran.

Yours truly,



Hugh Gwillim B.A LL.B
Barrister and Solicitor
Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

cc:

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