

February 10, 2008

This Letter is addressed to the following:

*Ayatollah Ali Khamenei* (Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran);  
*Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi* (Head of the Judiciary of IRI);  
*Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad* (President of the Islamic Republic of Iran);  
*Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad- Adel* (Speaker of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

*C/O H.E. Mohammad Khazae*  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations  
Fax: 212-867-7086

We the undersigned are deeply dismayed to hear that the publishing license of the monthly magazine *Zanan* has been revoked by the Press Supervisory Board.

For the past 16 years, *Zanan* has been an important voice reporting on issues that Iranian women face — their problems as well as their achievements. It has also been an indispensable forum for encouraging dialogue among those genuinely interested in solving broader social problems. Its sustained coverage of women's lives in Iran has allowed a balanced international understanding of Iranian society. Revoking *Zanan's* publication license deprives all Iranians a vital source on women's issues and closes one more journal at a critical moment of the country's life.

We are extremely disturbed by this revocation by a body that constitutionally does not have the authority to revoke the license of any publication. We ask for its immediate withdrawal, and reconstitution of publishing permit for *Zanan*. The revocation of *Zanan's* permit stands in violation of the right to free expression and is, as such, unacceptable by any standards.

1. Dr. Margaret Abraham, Professor and Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity Initiatives, Hofstra University
2. Dr. Janet Afary, Associate Professor, Purdue University
3. Dr. Haleh Afshar, Baroness OBE and Professor, University of York
4. Dr. Leila Ahmed, Professor, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University
5. Dr. Kazem Alamdari, California State University, Los Angeles
  
6. Dr. Margot Badran, Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University

7. Dr. Shaul Bakhash, Professor, George Mason University
8. Dr. Ali Banuazizi, Professor, Boston College, and Past President of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
9. Dr. Nimat Hafez Barazangi, Research Fellow, Cornell University
10. Dr. Asma Barlas, Professor and Program Director, Ithaca College
11. Dr. Golbarg Bashi, Visiting Scholar, Columbia University
12. Dr Asef Bayat, Professor and Academic Director, International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM), Leiden University, The Netherlands
13. Dr. Jane Bayes, Professor and Director, Institute of Globalization, Gender and Democracy, California State University, Northridge
14. Judith Bello, Peace Activist, New York
15. Dr. Elizabeth Berry, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Northridge
16. Dr. Marilyn Booth, Associate professor and Director, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
17. Dr. Ladan Boroumand, Research Director, Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation
18. Dr. Roya Boroumand, Executive Director, Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation
19. Dr. Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Associate Professor, Founding Director, Middle Eastern Studies Program, Syracuse University
20. Dr. Stephen Eric Bronner, Professor, Rutgers University
21. Margaret Burke, Assistant Professor, Hofstra University
  
22. Dr. Houchang Chehabi, Professor, Boston University
23. Dr. Noam Chomsky, Professor and Author, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
24. Dr. Esther Ngan-ling Chow, Professor, American University
25. Dr. Juan Cole, Professor, University of Michigan and Past President of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
  
26. Dr. Hamid Dabbashi, Professor, Columbia University
27. Kathleen Desautels, 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice, Chicago
28. Dr. Ellen Carol DuBois, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
  
29. Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Laureate, Iran
30. Dr. Goudarz Eghtedari, Host, *Voices of the Middle East*
31. Dr. Kaveh Ehsani, Research Scholar, University of Illinois at Chicago
32. Dr. Nada Elia, President, Association of Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS)
33. Dr. Nader Entessar, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, University of South Alabama
34. Dr. Fatemeh Etemad Moghadam, Professor, Hofstra University

35. Dr. Brenda Elsey, Assistant Professor, Hofstra University and Co-Coordinator, Long Island Teachers for Human Rights
36. Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
37. Priscilla Fairbank, Peace Activist, New York City
38. Dr. Farideh Farhi, Adjunct Professor, University of Hawaii
39. Jean Feraca, Host, *Here on Earth: Radio without Borders*, Wisconsin Public Radio
40. Dr. Ellen Fleischmann, Associate Professor, University of Dayton
41. Dr. Nancy Fraser, Professor, New School University, New York
42. Akbar Ganji, Journalist and Author
43. Dr. Hadi Ghaemi, International Campaign for Human Rights, New York
44. Dr. Lina Gurvich, Assistant Professor, Hofstra University
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47. Dr. Fatemeh Haghighatjoo, Fellow, Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard University
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57. Mehrangiz Kar, Visiting Scholar at Law School, Harvard University
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60. Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz, Professor, Washington University, St. Louis
61. Dr. Azadeh Kian-Thiebaut, Professor and Director, Research and Documentation for Feminist Studies, University of Paris 7
62. Dr. Rachel Kreier, Assistant Professor, Hofstra University

63. Stephen Kinzer, Author and Lecturer, Northwestern University
64. Joanne Landy, Co-Director, Campaign for Peace and Democracy, New York
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66. Dr. Mary N. Layoun, Professor and Director, Graduate Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison
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68. Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate, Ireland
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73. Dr. Ricky Manoff, Lecturer, California State University, Northridge
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75. Betty Mandell, Co-Editor, *New Politics*
76. Marvin Mandell, Co-Editor, *New Politics*
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80. Dr. Avon Mattison, President, Pathway to Peace
81. Dr. Martin Melkonian, Adjunct Associate Professor, Hofstra University
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86. Dr. Valentine Moghadam, Professor and Director, Women's Studies Program, Purdue University
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100. Danny Postel, Journalist and Author, Chicago
  
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107. Dr. Fatima Sadiqi, Professor, President and Founder, ISIS Center For Women and Development (ICWAD), Morocco
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112. Dr. Diane Singerman, Associate Professor, American University
  
113. Dr. Mary Ann Tetreault, Professor, Trinity University, San Antonio
114. Dr. Charis Thompson, Associate Professor, Hofstra University
115. Dr. Barrie Thorne, Professor and Chair, Gender and Women Studies, University of California, Berkeley
116. Dr. Nayereh Tohidi, Professor and Chair, Gender and Women's Studies Department, California State University, Northridge
  
117. Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate, Ireland
118. Judy Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate, USA
  
119. Dr. Amy Elizabeth Young, Assistant Professor, Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania
120. Dr. Elise G. Young, Associate Professor, Founder and Coordinator, The Global Women's History Project, Westfield State College
  
121. Dr. Fariba Zarinbaf, Assistant Professor, University of Virginia
122. Dr. Howard Zinn, Author and Professor Emeritus, Boston University

123. Dr. Sherifa Zuhur, Research Professor and Director, Institute of Middle Eastern, Islamic and Diasporic Studies