



CHURCH IN CHAINS

AN IRISH VOICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

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Mr Mohammad Ali Eskandari
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
72 Mount Merrion Avenue
Blackrock
Co. Dublin

24 October 2018

Your Excellency,

I write, on behalf of Christians in Ireland, to express our shock at the withholding of essential medical treatment for Christian prisoner Ebrahim Firouzi who is being held in Rajai-Shahr prison in Karaj.

According to information from sources within Iran, Mr Firouzi has long been suffering from severe toothache, but has been continually refused adequate medical treatment inside the prison. We now understand that because of the lack of treatment, the severe toothache has spread throughout his jaw and face to the point where he is not even able to eat food anymore.

Mr Firouzi, who was formerly a Muslim, has been arrested and interrogated several times for his Christian activities. He has been in prison in Iran since March 2013 and is due for release in January 2020. We are informed that despite having served more than half of his sentence, he has been deprived of the right to take temporary leave – a sanction that is particularly acute because his elderly mother who is visually impaired, has cancer and has not seen her son for over a year.

I recall that on previous visits to your embassy to discuss the situation of Christians in Iran, we have been assured that "all human beings have the right to select their religion" and that the Iranian government upholds human rights.

Therefore, we appeal to your government to take immediate action to uphold Mr Firouzi's human rights and we ask particularly that

- (a) Immediate and adequate medical treatment is provided for Mr Firouzi and
- (b) Mr Firouzi is allowed temporary leave to visit his elderly sick mother.

Yours respectfully,

David Turner
(Director)