

IRAN PETITION SIGNATORIES

(TDs, SENATORS AND MEPs)

Eric Byrne TD
Joe Costello TD
Robert Dowds TD
Anne Ferris TD
Brendan Griffin TD
Marian Harkin MEP
Finian McGrath TD
Tony McLoughlin TD
Marc MacSharry Senator
Micheál Martin TD

Paschal Mooney Senator
Rónán Mullen Senator
Michael Mullins Senator
Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD
Éamon Ó Cuív TD
Labhrás Ó Murchú Senator
Arthur J. Spring TD
Emmet Stagg TD
Joanna Tuffy TD
Jim Walsh Senator

TEXT OF PETITION TO IRANIAN AMBASSADOR

Mr Javad Kachoueian, Ambassador Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

I write, as a member of the Oireachtas, to express my deep concern about the continuing ill-treatment of religious minorities in Iran. I understand that over 300 Christians have been arrested in recent years, according to figures provided by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran.

I am encouraged that since your arrival in Ireland earlier this year, you have said publicly that one of the main goals of the new Iranian government is to remove obstacles and normalise relations with Europe, based on mutual respect and common interest.

I appeal to your government to address the imprisonment of Christians as a matter of urgency as it constitutes an obstacle to normal relations between friendly countries. I particularly appeal for the release of Saeed Abedini, Farshid Fathi and Behnam Irani (three Christian leaders) and Mohammed Ali Dadkhah (a human rights lawyer who has represented Christians) who are all serving long prison sentences.

Yours sincerely, _____