



**Buitenlandse
Zaken**

Organisation for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
for Iran
Professor Manouchehr Ganji, Secretary-General

Ministry For Foreign Affairs
North Africa and Middle East
Department
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67
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Encl.
Re Your letter of 5 august
Cc

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Dear Professor Ganji,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2007 to Prime Minister Balkenende in which you express your concern about the human rights situation in Iran.

The Dutch government is also concerned about the human rights situation in Iran and is monitoring the situation closely. It considers that the international community must intervene in cases of serious human rights abuses and raises such issues in a range of organisations such as the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe. The Netherlands is coordinating its policy with other countries of the European Union.

The Netherlands calls countries to account for violations of freedom of expression, freedom of religion and belief, and economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights. The Netherlands firmly opposes death penalty and torture and in particular supports human rights defenders.

The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.minbuza.nl) provides more information about the Netherlands' human rights policy.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Henriette van Lynden-Leijten
Director, North Africa and Middle East Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs