



Dr. Chandana Mathur  
Chair  
World Council of  
Anthropological Associations

June 18, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Hassan Rouhani  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square  
Tehran,  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o His Excellency Gholam Ali Khoshroo, the Iranian Ambassador  
to the UN  
[iran@un.int](mailto:iran@un.int)

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o H.E. Gholam Ali Khoshroo  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to  
the United Nations  
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
email: [iran@un.int](mailto:iran@un.int) and [contact@leader.ir](mailto:contact@leader.ir)

SUBJECT: Professor Homa Hoodfar

Your Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations, a network of over fifty national, regional and international anthropological associations from all continents. We are extremely concerned to learn about the arrest and incarceration of our colleague Professor Homa Hoodfar. Professor Hoodfar -- Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada -- is a highly respected anthropologist, known internationally

for her contributions to Middle East Studies. Her scholarly work has deepened our understanding of Islam, and is widely admired in the world of anthropology for its analytical rigour and balanced perspectives.

Although she has never participated in activities that might cause concern to her home country of Iran, she has nonetheless been imprisoned since June 6<sup>th</sup> without access to her family, legal counsel or medical care. We understand that she suffered a mild stroke last year and has an ongoing neurological condition, which makes her current ordeal doubly dangerous. It is not befitting for a nation that values its intellectuals and respects the rights of all to unjustly detain a senior academic. We respectfully urge you to ensure that Professor Hoodfar is released from prison and exonerated of all charges, and that her passports are returned to her. Our global network of anthropologists will be very thankful for the consideration of our request in your further deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



Chandana Mathur

Chair

World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA)

[www.wcaanet.org](http://www.wcaanet.org)

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WCAA member associations include the following:

### **Africa**

Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA)  
Pan African Anthropology Association (PAAA)  
Tunisian Association of Anthropology / L'Association  
Tunisienne d'Anthropologie - TAA

### **Asia**

Anthropological Association of the Philippines / Ugnayang  
Pang-Aghamtao, Inc. - UGAT  
The Chinese Anthropological Society - CAS  
Hong Kong Anthropological Society - HKAS  
Indian Anthropological Association - IAA  
Indian Anthropological Society - Calcutta  
Indonesian Anthropological Association - IAA  
Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology - JASCA  
Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology - KOSCA  
Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology - TSAE

### **Australasia**

Association of Social Anthropologists of New Zealand/Aoteroa -  
ASA-NZ  
Australian Anthropological Society - AAS

### **Europe**

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Anthropological Association of Sweden - SANT  
Asociación de Antropología de Castilla y León - AAC-LMK  
Associação Portuguesa de Antropologia - APA  
Association Française des Anthropologues - AFA  
Association Française d'Ethnologie et d'Anthropologie - AFEA  
Association of Anthropologists and Ethnologists of Russia -  
AAER  
Association of Social Anthropologists UK & Commonwealth - ASA  
Associazione Nazionale Universitaria degli  
Antropologi Culturali - ANUAC  
Croatian Anthropological Association - HAD  
Czech Association for Social Anthropology - CASA

Česká Národopisná Společnost - ČNS  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde - DGV  
European Association of Social Anthropologists - EASA  
Finnish Anthropological Society - SAS  
Institut Català d'Antropologia - ICA  
Instituto Madrileño de Antropología - IMA  
International Association for Southeast European Anthropology  
(InASEA)  
Istituto Italiano di Antropologia - ISItA  
Latvijas Antropologu Biedriba - LAB  
Norsk Antropologisk Forening - NAF  
Polskie Towarzystwo Ludoznawcze / Polish Ethnological Society  
- PTL  
Royal Anthropological Institute - RAI  
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### **Latin America**

Associação Brasileira de Antropologia - ABA  
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Colegio de Antropólogos de Chile - CAC  
Colegio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales - CEAS  
Colegio de Graduados en Antropología de la República Argentina  
- CGA  
Uruguayan Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology -  
AUAS

### **North America**

American Anthropological Association - AAA  
Canadian Anthropology Society / La Société Canadienne  
d'Anthropologie - CASCA  
Society for Applied Anthropology - SfAA

### **International**

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore / Société  
Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF)  
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological  
Sciences (IUAES)  
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