

Seven Missing Rights

We demand the following rights for the people of Iran. Recent events have proven that basic human rights are being regularly abused by Iran's ruling regime. To be considered the legitimate leaders of the Iranian People, we demand that the government of the Islamic Republic end all torture, free all prisoners of conscience, and protect these rights:

1. The Right to Free Speech

- a. The right to criticize the government, in public speech, print, and electronic media
- b. Access to that media (*IRI operates all television news and blocks access to the Internet*)
- c. Freedom from censorship in all venues, from literature to the study of social sciences

2. The Right to Assemble

- a. Already mentioned in Iran's constitution, this includes peaceful protests and public gatherings

3. The Right of Free Association

- a. Freedom to associate with any group, the opposite sex, foreigners, religious minorities, etc.
- b. The right not to be considered guilty by association (*e.g.* for associating with minorities)

4. The Right to Free Elections

- a. We want transparent voting in Iran, with an accessible voting trail to enable recounts
- b. The right to run in elections: In the IRI's current system, candidates are vetted by clerical bias (In Iran's constitution, the vetting is much less harsh--mostly a screening for criminal records)
- c. This demand includes voiding of the last presidential election, and a transparent re-vote monitored by at least two neutral third-party organizations

According to Iran's own constitution, this democratic process is to be protected by law, and was part of the reform expected when this regime took power 30 years ago in the Iranian revolution.

5. The Right to Due Process of Law

In Iran today you can be harassed or arrested without cause. Such tactics of control and intimidation by the IRI are against the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has signed. Again, enforcement of Iran's constitution would ensure this right. We suggest institution of a constitutional court.

- a. This right includes freedom from any threats to, or imprisonment of, your family
- b. The right to be presented with the evidence of charges against you
- c. The right to have a lawyer present during all legal proceedings
- d. On a society level, this right prohibits the creation of courts without lawyers
(... such as the one recently created to "show trial" forced confessions by Iran's opposition members. Many of Iran's lawyers refused to participate in the creation of such a court.)
- e. *Presumption of Innocence until Proven Guilty*
 - i. This includes freedom from detention as a means of intimidation and silencing of dissent
 - ii. Freedom from arbitrary imprisonment (*e.g.* for made-up charges that are not on law books)

6. The Right to Free Practice of Religion

- a. Under IRI rule, the Baha'i and other faiths have suffered persecution for thirty years
- b. Historically, Iran was the first nation to institute religious tolerance, over 2,500 years ago

7. The Right to Unionize