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June 9, 2016

The Honourable Stéphane Dion
Minister of Global Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Stephane.Dion@parl.gc.ca

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca



Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Dion:

On behalf of the Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA), I am writing with respect to the situation of Dr. Homa Hoodfar, Professor of Anthropology at Concordia University. As the association that represents anthropologists from across Canada, we are deeply concerned about the well-being of Dr. Hoodfar, who was arrested in Iran on June 6 in connection with her professional activities.

CASCA supports all efforts to intervene in this case to ensure her immediate release. This is a matter of academic and professional freedom and we agree with other academics and concerned citizens that her rights to freedom of expression and association have been violated. In particular, we are deeply concerned that a professional colleague researching gender, women's inequality, and development through archival and ethnographic research would be arrested and held without access to her lawyer or family or much-needed medication.

We understand that your government is currently endeavouring to normalize relations with Iran. We encourage you to exhaust all avenues at your disposal to ensure Dr. Hoodfar's safety and timely release. This is a matter of the utmost importance not only to fellow academics, social scientists, and human rights advocates, but to our country as a whole.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Patrick', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Donna Patrick
Professor of Anthropology, Carleton University
President, Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA)