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July 28, 2009

His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President
His Excellency Gholam-Hossein Elham, Ministry of Justice

c/o His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Khazaei,
Ambassador of Iran to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
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Dear Sirs:

I write this letter in regard to the imprisonment of Dr. Kian Tajbakhsh. I am the President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). ACSP is the national association of planning scholars and educators in the United States of America. As an active member of ACSP for more than twenty years, as editor of the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, and now as President, I know Dr. Tajbakhsh to be a serious scholar of planning processes. I am deeply concerned that he has been wrongfully detained.

I urge you to examine the circumstances of Dr. Tajbakhsh's detention. He is known within ACSP as a scholar and teacher of the highest caliber. He has maintained a lifelong commitment to the principles of open inquiry that characterize Iran's intellectual history. The lack of any clear basis for his detention raises grave concerns about the safety of all scholars and intellectuals who may want to visit Iran.

I am confident that if you look into this matter you will order Dr. Tajbakhsh's immediate release.

Very truly yours,

Michael Hibbard, President
Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
Director, Institute for Policy Research and Innovation
Professor, Department of Planning, Public Policy & Management
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