

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 6, 2013

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500


Dear Mr. President,


We received the grim news on Tuesday that Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen, was abruptly and without explanation transferred from Iran's Evin prison to the even more brutal Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj. Transfer to Karaj, customarily used to house violent criminals, has all too frequently been a *de facto* death sentence for political prisoners.


As you know, Pastor Saeed's only crime is the peaceful practice of his religion. Even under the terrible circumstances of his year in prison, his courage and faith, and that of his wife, Naghmeh, have been inspirational.


All those who have followed Pastor Saeed's case commend you for raising the issue with President Hasan Rouhani during your telephone call on September 27, 2013. We believe this new action by the Iranian regime merits additional response. It is imperative for the United States government to speak out boldly on behalf of Pastor Saeed, at the earliest possible opportunity, and we look forward to supporting you in this effort.


Sincerely,




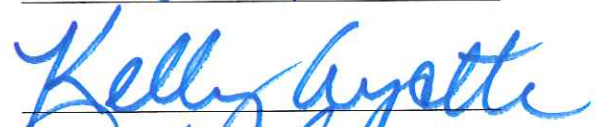















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