



LAWASIA STATEMENT ON TREATMENT OF IRANIAN LAWYERS

Resolution

Noting the reports of human rights infringements against lawyers in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and noting further previous LAWASIA resolutions emphasising the importance not only of individual human rights but also the importance of the independence of the Bar and the rule of law, the LAWASIA Council calls upon the government of Iran to:

1. ensure that no members of the legal profession are the subject of detention or other harassment as a result of representing clients in unpopular or contentious cases;
2. recognise the fundamental importance of an independent legal profession;
3. refrain from categorising lawyers who represent clients in contentious cases as acting against the interests of "national security";
4. refrain from seeking access to a lawyer's files except in circumstances where there is a bona fide and legally justifiable reason to do so; and
5. release from detention any member of the legal profession who is currently being held in custody as a form of retribution or harassment for representing individuals in unpopular or contentious cases or for espousing unpopular causes.

AGREED BY THE LAWASIA COUNCIL

11 NOVEMBER 2010