

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, T
he Office of the Supreme Leader
Shoahada Street,
Qom,
Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency

I am writing to express my grave concern at the continued incarceration of prisoner of conscience Abbas Lisani, who is being held solely on account of his peaceful political and cultural activities on behalf of the Iranian Azerbaijani community, including his participation in the 2003 Babek Castle gathering and the May 2006 "cartoon demonstration" in Ardbeil.

I am further concerned that the speed with which the review of Abbas Lisani's case was conducted indicates that it may not have been genuine and call on the authorities to give details of the procedure before the Ardbeil Appeal Court. The fact that Abbas Lisani faces further prison terms connected to his peaceful activities is, of course, a cause for further concern.

I call on the Iranian authorities to take the following steps:

- commute Abbas Lisani's sentence of flogging immediately as it amounts to torture
- grant Abbas Lisani immediate and unconditional access to his lawyer, continued and regular access to his family, and access to any medical treatment that he requires;
- establish an investigation into Abbas Lisani's allegations that he was tortured and denied medical care for his injuries in June 2004;
- ensure that all those found responsible for torture of detainees or prisoners to be brought to justice in fair trials
- give the family of Abbas Lisani, who have reportedly been harassed and intimidated by the authorities, all necessary protection to ensure their safety

I will also remind the authorities of their responsibilities as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7 of which says "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment"

Yours sincerely