

Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft Hauptvorstand



President

Ministry of Justice
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Sharoudi
Panzdah-Khordad Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

16 June 2008
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Your Excellency,

The GEW, the German Education Union, is deeply concerned about the situation of Farzad Kamangar, an Iranian teacher who was sentenced to death on 25 February 2008 by the Tehran Revolutionary Court on charges of "endangering national security." Aged 32, Farzad Kamangar has worked as a teacher in Kamyaran for 12 years. He was member of the Kurdish Teachers' Trade Association and in charge of public relations for the teachers' union until it was outlawed. Farzad Kamangar was also active in defending human rights, minority rights and women's rights.

According to his lawyer, the judicial process did not meet the Iranian legal requirements and there is no evidence against him of the charges of "enmity against God". Farzad Kamangar has been held incommunicado at a series of locations in Sanandaj/ Kurdistan, in Kermanshah, in the Evin prison and currently in the Rajaishahr prison in Karaj. Reliable information indicate that he has been tortured regularly. Currently, he is detained with dangerous criminals and he fears for his security, as well as for his health given the high prevalence of HIV and hepatitis B in the prison.

The GEW, representing some 250.000 members, supports the campaigns of the Iranian Teachers' Association and of amnesty international to re-examine the case of Farzad Kamangar through a fair trial that meets Iranian and international standards. We also urge the authorities to commute Farzad Kamangar's death sentence immediately, as the application of death penalty is irreparable and no judicial system should run the risk of condemning an innocent person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ulrich Thöne', is written over the typed name.

Ulrich Thöne,
President of GEW
Board Member of Education International