

# **PETITION TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IRANIAN NATIONALS**

## **TO: CANADIAN AUTHORITIES**

We, the undersigned, petition the Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Hon. Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Opposition Critic for Citizenship and Immigration, and all federal and provincial members of the Parliament regarding the fair treatment of Iranian citizens seeking study permit, temporary resident visa, and visitor visa.

We wish to bring to your esteemed attention that Canadian consulate and immigration authorities are systematically refusing to grant visa to our parents, siblings, student friends, and resident students' spouses and children, despite their legal and moral eligibility. This trend of arbitrary visa refusals to Iranian citizens and prospective students, namely on the subjective ground of "limited ties to Iran", has significantly increased since 2004. We firmly believe that, in the absence of any reasonable justification, this restrictive policy and these subjective limitations are only amounting to a blatant violation of the fundamental human rights of a group of people based on their nationality, and in patent disregard of our own rights (such as the right to family reunification), as Iranian-Canadians.

All Canadians take pride in the international recognition of Canada's achievements in supporting human rights. However, we the undersigned, remain profoundly concerned at the current unjustified discriminatory treatment of Iranian citizens by Canadian authorities in frequently denying them visa or making the usual procedures of obtaining one extremely difficult. We respectfully demand that you investigate any violations of human rights arising from this matter and take appropriate corrective measures in this regard.

**SIGNATURES FOR PETITION TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IRANIAN NATIONALS:**

Name	Address	Phone number	Status in Canada: (Citizen, Permanent Res., Study Permit, Visitor Permit, Work Permit)	Signature