



*We say No Deportations to Iran
We mean Human Rights in Canada*

www.NoDeportationsToIran.org

info@nodeportationstoiran.org

Tel: 416-500-9918

Fax: 905-886-8060

80 Doncaster Rd., Thornhill, ON L31 1L5

Dear Jason Kenney,
Minister of Immigration,

Friday July 13th, 2012

CC: Sahaja Yoga Canada,
Sahaja Yoga Ontario,
Olivia Ward (The Toronto Star)

You may be aware of the unprecedented nationwide arrests of Sahaja Yogis in more than 10 cities in Iran. With offices closed down and materials, including computers, confiscated many Yogis are now in detention. Sahaja Yoga is a group of people who follow Shri Mataji the founder of the group since 1970s. They believe in collective consciousness, spreading love and peace via self-realization (spiritual awakening) to people and strongly affirming that peace cannot come to fruition in our world without peace within. The aggressive raids toward such a peaceful people are yet another proof on lack of basic human rights in Iran.

As you are well aware, the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes itself as a country where the "Sharia" Islamic law rules the country and faith-based laws are applied. Anyone who changes his or her religion from Islam is called "Mortad" or an apostate and risks the death penalty. Although Sahaja Yogis have never claimed that they have changed their religion, the Iranian regime considers them as non-believers and a danger to Islam. This act is yet another indication of the brutality with which this regime deals with any opinion contrary to their belief system, social and societal rules that they have invented and uphold.

We would like to bring the Minister's attention to Kavooos Soofi's case who was nearly deported from Canada, in Feb. 2012. Kavooos had publicly denounced Islam and adopted Sahaja Yogi as his faith. Luckily he was able to muster enough support from the public in Canada to have the deportation orders reversed; giving him the chance to live as a free man in our democratic Canada.

We, as Canadian citizens under the banner of 'No Deportations to Iran' are expressing our concerns openly and directly to our government and especially to you, as the Minister of Immigration and informing you that by continuing to deport innocent people to Iran, a country where human rights are systematically ignored and abused, Canada is committing a grave mistake. We are insisting that our government listen to its citizens and consider human rights as the main guideline for its decisions. We hereby are requesting an immediate halt on deportations to Iran.

The 'No Deportation to Iran' group will continue its efforts to create awareness amongst the policy makers of Canada, all along believing that changing the deportation to Iran policy currently adopted by Canadian government will save many lives.

The many signatures collected as hereby attached.

Sincerely, No Deportations To Iran