

**IRISH AND CANADIAN ACADEMICS LAUNCH CROSS-ATLANTIC PROTEST,
ASKING FOR HOMA HOODFAR'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Montreal, September 7, 2016 - Today we are gathering to request all governments involved, including the Iranian, Canadian, and Irish governments, to do everything they can to facilitate the speedy release of Prof. Hoodfar and to return her home safely to Montreal.

Like us, Prof. Hoodfar should be back working with her students. Instead, she is being held in Iran's Evin Prison on fabricated charges of "collaborating with a hostile government against national security and of propaganda against the state." The most recent reports suggest that Prof. Hoodfar's health is failing and her family, friends, and colleagues are extremely worried about how much longer she can survive the ordeal.

In particular, we are speaking out in solidarity with our academic colleagues in Ireland, who gathered outside of the Iranian Embassy in Dublin earlier this morning. Emer O'Toole, a Professor of Irish Studies at Concordia University who has been in close touch with those organizing on the ground, reports that "many people in Ireland are deeply concerned about Professor Hoodfar's welfare. They too hope that these baseless charges will be dropped against Homa and that she will be able to return home as quickly as possible."

Kimberley Manning, Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, notes that there is growing international awareness of the situation. "Over the course of the summer over 5000 academics signed a petition calling for Homa's release, including notable public intellectuals like Noam Chomsky and Nobel Laureates such as Orhan Pamuk. I am getting emails from friends and colleagues from across the country wanting to know how to help. We see the protest this morning in Dublin as just the beginning of a series of national and international events that will take place over the coming weeks."

Indeed, Amanda Ghahremani, Prof. Hoodfar's niece, is currently in Bahia, Brazil for AWID's 13th International Forum, where feminist groups from across the world are gathering. There, Amanda will be sharing details about Prof. Hoodfar's imprisonment and mobilizing transnational solidarity for our colleague.

For more details about how to take action: <http://www.homahoodfar.org>

-30-

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