

---

# OPEN LETTER

PROTECTING TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS WORLDWIDE



[www.aiic.net](http://www.aiic.net)



[www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)



[www.red-t.org](http://www.red-t.org)

---

May 2012

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street  
Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran

## **Appeal for Mohammad Soleimani Nia**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and Red T, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of translators and interpreters at risk, we call for the release of Mr. Mohammad Soleimani Nia.

According to our information, Mr. Soleimani Nia responded to a summons to appear before the Revolutionary Court in Tehran and was detained on January 10, 2012. Since that time, we understand that he has been subject to prolonged periods of solitary confinement in Tehran's Evin prison and that his health is in jeopardy.

Iran is a country with a long history of literary creation. It is also a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We call upon Your Excellency to uphold Article 19 of this Covenant, which states: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." As a recognized literary translator and developer of a professional networking site, Mr. Soleimani Nia exercised his right to freedom of expression and assisted literary creators. His fate is the subject of international concern, including ours, as colleagues in the linguistic professions.

We urge you to release Mr. Soleimani Nia without delay.

Sincerely,

Linda Fitchett  
President, AIIC

Marion Boers  
President, FIT

Maya Hess  
President, Red T



[www.aiic.net](http://www.aiic.net)



[www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)



[www.red-t.org](http://www.red-t.org)

---

Open Letter - Page 2

Cc:

H.E. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: Via Foreign Ministry: +98 21 6 674 790

H.E. Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
Head of the Judiciary  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri  
Tehran 1316814737  
Islamic Republic of Iran