



**Peter van Dalen**  
Lid Europees Parlement

Attn:

H.E. Catherine Ashton  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Council of the European Union  
175, Rue de la Loi  
B-1048 Brussels

Brussels, Friday 15 November 2013

Dear Mme. Ashton,

Enclosed please find a letter on the critical situation of Iranian Pastor Saeed Abedini. We trust you will take this letter into account in your policy deliberations on Iran.

The letter is signed by Mr. Oldrich VLASAK, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. Struan STEVENSON, chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Iraq, Mr. Ryszard LEGUTKO, leader of the Polish Law and Justice delegation in the ECR Group, and myself.

Kind regards,



Peter VAN DALEN

Attn:

H.E. Catherine Ashton

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Council of the European Union

175, Rue de la Loi

B-1048 Brussels

Brussels, Friday 15 November 2013

Subject: Open letter on the critical situation of Christian Pastor Saeed Abedini

Your Excellency,

We would kindly like to thank you for your reply of 26 June 2013 No. A(2013)164347-1809700 which referred to the letter of 8 May 2013 concerning Christian Pastor Saeed Abedini.

We would like to draw your attention to disturbing developments in his case. Pastor Saeed Abedini has been detained in Iran on charges stemming from his Christian faith since 28 July 2012. He was imprisoned in Evin Prison in Tehran on 26 September 2012, and transferred to Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj without prior notice on 3 November 2013.

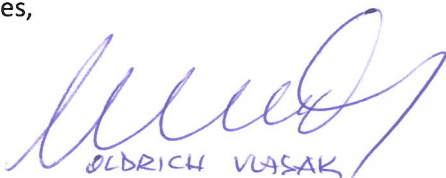
Rajai Shahr is a prison where the most violent criminals are incarcerated. Pastor Saeed has been placed in a 3m by 3m cell with five other inmates in the ward reserved for murderers and rapists.

Pastor Saeed's life is in grave danger inside Rajai Shahr, a prison known for tremendous overcrowding and deplorable conditions and inmate on inmate violence. According to actual information obtained, he is suffering physical and psychological abuse at the hands of both prison officials and inmates. We have good reason to believe that he has received very specific threats of violence since his transfer to Rajai Shahr. In addition, Pastor Saeed was denied all of his personal belongings from Evin Prison including to his desperately needed medication prescribed for injuries sustained from repeated beatings while in Evin Prison.

On 13 October 2013 the European Parliament passed resolution RC-B7-0449/2013 on recent cases of violence and persecution against Christians. In the resolution the European Parliament expressed its deep concern about the fate of Pastor Saeed Abedini and called on the government of Iran to exonerate and release him. Due to the very serious developments in his situation, we the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urgently request you to raise the case of Pastor Saeed Abedini to the Foreign Affairs Council and to your contacts in the Iranian administration.

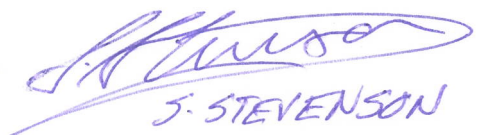
We will circulate this letter among our constituents and in the media.

Best wishes,

  
OLDRICH VLASAK

  
RYSZARD LEGUTKO

  
P. V. Dale

  
J. STEVENSON