

30 August 2011

His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
c/o H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khazaei
Ambassador of Iran to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA

Your Eminence, Grand Ayatollah Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i:

The international optics community has noted with concern, news of the arrest of Omid Kokabee who was detained earlier this year while visiting his family in Iran. On behalf of the optical scientists and engineers from the 170 countries represented by the international organizations listed below, we respectfully request that you consider allowing our colleague, Mr. Omid Kokabee, to return to his studies.

Mr. Kokabee is a graduate of Sharif University of Technology in Tehran who later studied at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain where he obtained a master's degree in photonics. He has most recently been studying at the University of Texas where he is pursuing a PhD degree in optics. The science research community is a global community that considers Iran an important member; we value the contributions that Mr. Kokabee has made to the field of optics and expect him to become a respected member of the research community if he is allowed to continue his studies.

It is the hope of the international community of optical scientists and engineers that you will review this matter expeditiously so that Mr. Kokabee can return to his studies at the start of the academic year to resume his research.

We share the common belief recognized by all the major religious traditions that compassion is among the greatest of virtues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hervé Lefèvre, President
European Optical Society
France

Christopher Dainty, President
OSA
Ireland

María Luisa Calvo Padilla, President
International Commission for Optics
Spain

Katarina Svanberg, President
The International Society for Optics and Photonics
Sweden

cc: Head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani