

H.E.  
Mr. Ali Ardeshir LARIJANI  
President of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

Majles Shoraye Eslami  
Baharestan Square  
Teheran

**Open Appeal regarding Human Rights Abuses in Iran**

Dear Colleague,

We, the undersigned Women Speakers of Parliaments in the European Union meeting in Tallinn, Estonia on 21 and 22 August, 2009, would like to address you as a fellow Parliamentary Speaker regarding the recent serious developments in regard to the situation of human rights in Iran.

We are deeply concerned about the events following the elections on 12 June, in particular the use of excessive police force and the arrest of a large number of persons who have exercised their right to freedom of expression and their right to peaceful assembly, among them many women.

With deep concern we follow allegations of mistreatment and sexual abuse of detained demonstrators of both genders and urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with all the international human rights instruments ratified by Iran, especially with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the rights to fair trial and fair treatment of detainees.

We call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to honour its standing invitation to UN Special Procedures and to further strengthen its cooperation with the UN human rights system by accepting the requests made by several Special Procedures mandate holders, including Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Working Group on enforced and involuntary disappearances, to conduct official visits to the country.

We are convinced that a visit by independent UN experts will contribute to an objective and impartial assessment of the human rights situation in the country and that their recommendations will provide practical proposals to implement international human rights standards.

Yours sincerely,

Ene ERGMA  
President of the Estonian Riigikogu

Barbara PRAMMER  
President of the National Council of Austria

Katalin SZILI  
Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary

Tsetska TSACHEVA  
President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria

Gerdi VERBEET  
President of the House of Representatives of the States General of The Netherlands