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Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Exchange of views with an Iranian Delegation

Strasbourg, 21 January 2013

Short résumés of the members of the delegation

Dr Ardechir Amir Arjomand, President of the delegation, obtained his doctorate diploma in international law at the University of Strasbourg (France) in 1978. He then held various important positions in the domain of public law, international law and Human Rights law in Iran. He also obtained the status of the UNESCO Chair Holder for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace. During the presidential campaign in 2009, Dr Arjomand was the First Councillor of the candidate for presidency of Iran, Mr Mir-Hossein Mousavi. After the elections, he was briefly arrested by the elected Iranian authorities. He is now the Spokesman of the Coordinating Council of the Green Path of Hope of Iran President.

Mr Rajab-ali Mazroui is an Iranian politician and economist, economic advisor to Seyed Mohammad Khatami, the former Iranian reformist President. He was a member of the Iranian Parliament from 1999 to 2003, representing the city of Isfahan. He was disqualified by the Guardians Council to run for further parliamentary elections after the above stated parliamentary term. He has been President of the Journalists Association since 1998. Mr Mazroui has been consistently involved in social and political activities after the Islamic Revolution in Iran and, in 1998, he became one of the constituting members of the Participation Front of the Islamic Iran Party (a reformist political party which is currently banned in the country following the controversial 2009 elections in Iran). To this day he remains a member of the central committee and the policy making office of that party.

Dr Morteza Kazemian, Iranian Political activist, Journalist and Political Analyst, is a member of the central council in "The Committee for the Defense of Freedom of the Press" (other members include Mohsen Kadivar, Hassan Youssefi Eshkevari, Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, Eesa Saharkhiz, Ahmad Zeyd,abadi, Keyvan Samimi), a member of the "Committee for the Defence of Free, Fair and Healthy Election" in Iran (Other members include Shirin Ebadi as the president, Ebrahim Yazdi, Abdolfatah Soltani, Abbas Amirentezam), a member of the "Council of Melli Mazhabi Activists", which is a democratic and liberal opposition group in Iran and a member of "the Association of Iranian Journalists" and "International Federation of Journalists" (IFJ). A PhD student of Political Sciences, Kazemian was arrested on December 28 2009 in Tehran and sentenced to one year in prison by the Revolutionary Tribunal of Iran, indicted for "propaganda against the State". After spending 63 days in solitary confinement, he was freed on bail for 50 000 dollars. Once again, in March 2000, the Revolutionary Court arrested him. After spending 130 days in solitary confinement and 80 days in closed-door cells, he was released on bail for 50 000 dollars. Mr Kazemian was indicted for "subversive activities against the state", "propaganda against the state" and "plotting to overthrow Iran's ruling political system". He was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment by the Revolutionary Tribunal of Tehran in 2003. On December 28 2010, security officials called him for yet another interrogation. He was forced to leave Iran with his family. Today, Mr Kazemian lives in Paris.

Mr Taghi Rahmani is a prominent author, political figure and winner of the Hellman/Hammett grant for persecuted writers. He is a senior member of the "Council of Melli Mazhabi Activists", which is a democratic and liberal opposition group in Iran. He has been in prison for over 15 years for expressing his opinion. He was an advisor to Mehdi Karroubi, the former candidate to the 2009 presidential elections. He is also the husband of Narges Mohammadi, the prominent human rights defender and colleague of Shirin Ebadi, currently sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for her human rights activities.

Mr Mostafa Khosravi, Political Activist, Journalist and member of the Policy-making Committee of the Iranian Alumni Organization (Advar Tahkim Vahdat), whose leaders, including Ahmad Zeydabadi and Abdollah Momeni, are currently in prison in Iran. Mr. Khosravi is also a former member of Dafter Tahkim Vahdat (Office of Strengthening Unity), the Iranian student organization created in 1979, described as "the country's most well-known student organization" and "Iran's leading pro-democracy student group". He has years of active participation in the Iranian Student Movement. Following the 2009 presidential elections and the wave of arrests of student activists and members of the Iranian Alumni Organization, Mr. Khosravi left the country and currently resides in Rome.

Ms Neguin Bank is a Human Rights activist. An Iranian - Italian citizen, she has been active in launching global campaigns to raise awareness within the international community on the increasing violations of human rights in Iran, following the controversial presidential elections in 2009.

The Coordinating Council of the Green Path of Hope of Iran was formed by Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, the leaders of Green Movement of Iran, both former candidates to the controversial 2009 presidential elections in Iran. The council was formed prior to the illegal house arrest of the two leaders two years ago. The objective of the Council was to coordinate the Green Movement forces, which are committed to peaceful struggle within the framework of law and in full respect of Human Rights principles as well as to the principles of independence and territorial integrity of Iran. The other aim of Mr Mousavi and Mr Karroubi was to provide a body, which could continue the movement in case they were imprisoned. The Council represents the demands of the political groups inside the country. The majority of the members of the Council are currently in Iran. The Council is also committed to human rights, democracy, women rights, workers' rights and the rights of religious and ethnic minorities as set out in the Green Movement's Charter. For more information about this Charter please visit: <http://shora.org/en/2010/06/mir-hosseini-mousavi-charter-for-the-green-movement.php>.