

Seyed Hamed Hooriaband
Ward 350 (Political Prison) Evin Prison, Tehran, Iran
June 8, 2012

Seyed Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader
The Islamic Republic of Iran
South Daneshgah St.
Tehran, Iran

His Holiness Seyed Ali Khamenei:

I am writing to you from a moon lit, dismal and damp cell in one the most notorious confinements handled by the Intelligence Ministry. I have lifted this pen within the course of being interrogated by an officer of the Ministry. As for paper I am using the inner fold of the button plackets on my uniform to conceal what I have written until the time is right to correspond this letter to you.

I trust that by the time you receive this letter, I have already yielded to the aberrant methods of my interrogators. I have most likely 'dotted every i and crossed every t' to a well-articulated confession; regrettably letting myself be condemned by a Revolutionary Court to either Life or Death sentence.

Therefore, to no extent is the nature of this letter to plea for mercy or pardon. This is a petition for clarification as to why do such atrocities take place in the prisons of your our country? Have we lost sight of integrity to a degree that torturing and raping the boys and girls of our nation has become the norm? And all for the sake of power and wealth? Or perhaps there is more to it than what I have come to understand.

I do not doubt that there are and have been people on by your side who can look at history and see nothing but greatness. However I am inclined to believe that those people have never found themselves to be confined in a place as dark in nature and spirit as my cell just because they had dissimilar orientations, religions and opinions about the manner by which they wish to lead their youth into old age.

I will neither insult your acumen nor my sensibility by unveiling a list of self-inflicted occurrences and tragedies that have been going on for the past 30 years. Because I believe a man in your position is well acquainted with endeavors surrounding him. He either chooses to dismiss them for the purpose of the greater good which brings up the debate of the subject or recipient of that 'good', or he finds himself to be powerless surrounded by a hoard of wrong doers that grow as mushrooms do in the darkest places a forest.

I am not sure which your case is. What I am sure of is the matter of fact that if even today you chose to put an end to everything that has been going on and find yourself in a position of weakness. Even now at that very time that the hour seems to have been at its darkest, the Iranian people would stand by you. The likes of which we have witnessed in the course of our recent history with Mr. Montazery.

Sincerely,

Seyed Hamed Hooriaband
Ward 350 (Political Prison)
Evin Prison, Tehran, Iran
June 8, 2012

About the writer:

I used to live in France. I am an Iranian born who grew up in the states.

I spent 3 years in a political prison in Iran. A few of the people I was close with are either in prison or hanged.

I love music. It gives me an Edge!