



Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

February 5, 2015

Dear Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

We write to respectfully request the release of Omid Kokabee, a physics graduate student, from prison in Iran. We make this request on humanitarian grounds.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest multidisciplinary scientific membership organization, with over 120,000 members around the world, and publisher of the flagship journal *Science*. On February 13, Mr. Kokabee will receive the 2014 AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award at our Annual Meeting in recognition of his willingness to endure imprisonment rather than apply his scientific expertise for destructive purposes and for his efforts to provide hope and education to fellow prisoners.

The American Physical Society (APS) is the premier membership society of physicists in the U.S., representing over 51,000 physicists worldwide. In 2014, Kokabee received the APS Sakharov prize for his unwillingness "to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity, in the face of extreme physical and psychological pressure."

It is our understanding that Mr. Kokabee has become increasingly ill during his incarceration and that his continued imprisonment poses a serious threat to his long term health. We, therefore, respectfully request, on humanitarian grounds, that Omid Kokabee be released from prison.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*
American Association for the Advancement of Science

Kate Kirby
Chief Executive Officer
American Physical Society