



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release

UWinnipeg's Global College Aids Iranian Woman Facing Imminent Execution

WINNIPEG—A young Iranian woman facing execution within the next seven days is getting help from The University of Winnipeg Global College and UWinnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's former Foreign Affairs Minister.

Nazanin Fatehi, who was sentenced to death on January 3, 2006, may be hanged within the week. She was 17 at the time of an attempted rape and is facing execution for an act of self-defence for accidentally stabbing to death one of the three men who attempted to rape her and her 16-year old niece in a park in Karaj, Iran.

The University of Winnipeg is calling on all of Canada's post-secondary institutions and all defenders of human rights globally to voice their opposition to the planned execution of Nazanin Fatehi whose only crime was to defend herself and her niece against sexual predation. "Time is of the essence," said Axworthy who is urging students, human rights and women's organizations, cultural communities, governments of all levels and individual citizens to take up the cause and make their voices heard in support of Nazanin Fatehi and other innocents like her.

Many more signatures must be added to the over 130,000 global citizens who have signed the "Save Nazanin" petition in support of the young Iranian girl.

"We must speak for those in our midst who have no voice," said Samantha Arnold, Director, Global College Institute of Human Rights & Global Studies. "We cannot allow innocent people to be punished for defending themselves against the violent intentions of others. We cannot allow a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to shirk their responsibility to the innocent children. It goes against our civil society and against the tenets of all faiths."

Those wishing to stand alongside Nazanin Fatehi are urged to act today by:

- Contacting their Member of Parliament (http://canada.gc.ca/directories/direct_e.html)
- Signing the "Save Nazanin" petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/Nazanin/>
- Universities and NGOs are encouraged to feature the <http://www.petitiononline.com/Nazanin/> address on their homepages.

"Iran's clergy have it within their power to show the world that Muslims stand for the innocent," said James Christie, Dean of UWinnipeg's Global College and Dean of Theology. "They must protect the children of Iran."

*Launched Thursday, December 9, 2004 The University of Winnipeg's **Global College** is dedicated to the promotion of Global Citizenship through education, research, outreach, and community action. Global Citizenship is the relation among members of the international community working together for a common understanding of economic, social, environmental, political, and cultural aspirations. It is about understanding and caring for the needs and sufferings of others. Visit globalcollege.uwinnipeg.ca*

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