



Betty Williams, Ireland - 1976
Máiread Corrigan Maguire, Ireland - 1976
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala - 1992
Prof. Jody Williams, USA - 1997
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran - 2003
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya - 2004

united for peace with justice and equality

We six Nobel Peace Laureates —Jody Williams, Mairead Maguire, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai, Betty Williams and Rigoberta Menchú Tum— call upon the government of Iran to immediately cease all violence and use of force against peaceful protests in Iran, and to release, without conditions, those demonstrators and activists who have been arrested following the elections. We are deeply troubled by the Iranian government's violent response to the peaceful protests by its people following the June 12th elections.

In the days since the elections, more than a million people have marched in the streets of Tehran, protesting both the election outcomes and current President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's record of repression, censorship, and economic mismanagement. These largely peaceful protests have been met with violence and harsh attacks on civil liberties by Iranian authorities. Many of the country's civic leaders have been arrested, and government-sanctioned militias have attacked student activists in their dormitories, killing at least 4 in Tehran alone and arresting more than 300. The estimates of people killed or arrested for joining the demonstrations are increasing every day. Mobile phone services, internet communication, and television networks were disrupted and the government tried to cut people's lines of communication with each other. International journalists have been expelled and there are increased restrictions for domestic reporting. In the weeks leading up to the elections, Iranian officials increased harassment, threats, and arrests of activists, especially women's rights activists.

This heavy-handed response violates Iran's own commitments to international human rights treaties and is not befitting of a modern democracy. We strongly urge the Iranian government to immediately restore civil liberties, release all political prisoners, withdraw police and Special Guards from the streets, and to respect the fundamental rights of the Iranian people.

Betty Williams *Máiread Maguire* *Rigoberta Menchú Tum*

Betty Williams

Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Rigoberta Menchu Tum

Jody Williams

Shirin Ebadi

Wangari Maathai

Jody Williams

Shirin Ebadi

Wangari Maathai