

Bahá'í International Community

Brussels Office

52 – 54 rue Henri Evenepoel, 1030 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 6446463 • Fax: +32 2 6462277 • E-mail: brussels@bic.org

H.E. Federica Mogherini,
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 14 March 2017

Dear High Representative and Vice-President of the Commission,

The Bahá'í International Community is pleased to share with you the attached statement signed by thirty-two Members of the European Parliament and national Parliaments calling on the Iranian authorities to end the economic oppression of the Bahá'ís. As you know, economic apartheid of the Bahá'í community is part of a highly coordinated effort by the government of Iran to undermine the Bahá'í community's means of survival and to destroy it as a viable entity.

In a letter addressed to you on 12 April 2016 prior to your high-level visit to Iran on 16 April 2016, we expressed our hope that during your visit, you would find ways to address the issue of human rights, including those of the Bahá'ís, in such a way that Iran's authorities will be encouraged to take concrete and palpable measures to remedy the situation. The joint statement you and the Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif issued during that same high-level visit and the High Level Dialogue held in Brussels on 9 November 2016 provide an opportunity for Iran to demonstrate its commitment to human rights.

While initiating a process to gradually build a relationship with Iran can no doubt be an important step in the European Union's engagement with that country, we have yet to see any indication that closer interaction on the part of the international community with Iran leads to an appreciable change in the overall situation of the human rights of its citizens. However, we are confident in the European Union's commitment, as well as your own personally, to the noble cause of promoting human rights around the world and in Iran.

We trust that the European Union, as it engages Iran in a substantive conversation about human rights, will give due regard to the nearly four-decade-long, systematic oppression of the Bahá'í community in that country and include, in its dialogue with Iran, a plan for concrete steps to remove obstacles gradually so that the Iranian Bahá'í community may contribute, on equal

footing with its fellow citizens, to the advancement of their country. We also hope that sound criteria will be established to measure this progress, so that Iran's sincerity may be tested and demonstrated over time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rachel Bayani', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Bayani
Representative
Bahá'í International Community – Brussels Office

Enclosed:

– Statement Calling on Iran to End the Economic Oppression of the Bahá'ís