

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
C/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Aug 14th, 2019

A Decade in Jail for Defying Forced Veiling

Dear Mr Raisi,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we insist that you release **Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani, and Mojgan Keshavarz**, as they are all prisoners of conscience jailed solely for their human rights work. On March 8th 2019, a video went viral showing **Arabshahi, Aryani, and Keshavarz** without their headscarves, distributing flowers to female passengers on a metro train in Tehran while discussing their beliefs in a future where all women would have the freedom to choose what to wear. Subsequently, each woman was arrested and taken to prison.

We are deeply concerned of reports from Amnesty International stating that their sentences have gone through and will likely result in their unjust imprisonment. We feel that their sentences are not reflective of their actions; we believe that the work of women's rights defenders should not be criminalized.

We urge you to release **Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani, and Mojgan Keshavarz** without conditions on their freedom. Until they are free, we also ask that they have regular contact with a lawyer of their choosing to receive legal advice. Finally, we impress upon you the importance of upholding the right to peaceful demonstration as well as women's rights.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sierra Rae".

Sierra Rae
President
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union