

---

# OPEN LETTER

PROTECTING TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS WORLDWIDE



[www.aiic.net](http://www.aiic.net)



[www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)



[www.red-t.org](http://www.red-t.org)

---

August 2012

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street  
Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran

## Appeal for Manijeh Najm Araghi

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and Red T, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of translators and interpreters at risk, we call for the release of Ms. Manijeh Najm Araghi.

According to our information, Ms. Najm Araghi was arrested on May 27<sup>th</sup> and sentenced to serve one year at the Evin prison in Tehran. The charges against her stem from her involvement in the Iranian Writers Association.

Iran is a country with a long history of literary creation. It is also a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We call upon Your Excellency to uphold Article 19 of this Covenant, which states: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." As a recognized translator, writer, and women's rights activist, Ms. Najm Araghi exercised her right to freedom of expression and assisted literary creators.

Her fate is the subject of international concern, including ours, as colleagues in the language professions.

We urge you to release Ms. Najm Araghi without delay.

Sincerely,

Linda Fitchett  
President, AIIC

Marion Boers  
President, FIT

Maya Hess  
President, Red T