



*You Are Invited to a Public Devotional Gathering
Dedicated to the Bahá'í Prisoners in Iran*

Sunday, May 19, 2013

4:00pm to 6:00pm

*The Bahá'í Intercommunity Center
5103 Revere Road, Durham, NC 27713*

While Bahá'ís in Iran have endured persecutions since the inception of the Bahá'í Faith in 1844, the arrival of May 14, 2013, will mark the passage of five exceedingly difficult years, when seven former Bahá'í leaders known as the Yárán-i-Iran ("Friends of Iran") were summarily cast into prison, later to be falsely tried, convicted, and sentenced to long jail terms in a travesty of justice.



The Former Yárán: Mahvash Sabet, Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaie, Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Vahid Tizfahm were arrested in 2008 on false charges stemming from their administering to the spiritual and social needs of Iran's Bahá'í community. Illegally transferred to Gohardasht Prison "notorious for its brutally harsh conditions", they are forced to endure "appalling filth, pestilence, exposure to disease, and quarters so cramped that it is difficult for them to lie down or even to perform their daily prayers."

- The Bahá'í International Community

Over the last two years, as the Yárán and other prisoners of conscience have continued to endure incarceration under the harshest, most abominable conditions imaginable, the incessantly harassed Bahá'ís of Iran have seen their already constricted freedoms further deteriorate. Since January 2011, the number of Bahá'ís behind bars has more than doubled—from 56 to 115.

The purpose of this devotional gathering is to solemnly mark the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of the former Yárán to pray for a swift end to the incarceration of all Bahá'ís in Iran and for their spiritual and physical protection, together with that of all prisoners of conscience in that land.

We invite all who believe in freedom of religion and justice to join us in this spiritual gathering of prayer, music, and a brief historic presentation of the persecutions of Bahá'ís in Iran. For more information, contact Kathy Lee at: (email) kathylee@diversityassociatesinc.com; or (phone) 919-251-8085.