



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Mrs Donna Greene



copy

Dear Mrs Greene

Thank you for your letter dated 3 February 2007 concerning reports of children being executed in Iran. I have been asked to reply on behalf of Mr Downer.

The human rights situation in Iran is of grave concern to Australia. The Government is active in expressing that concern directly to Iran as well as in supporting international efforts to persuade Iran to comply with human rights instruments to which it is a signatory.

Our Embassy in Tehran makes frequent representations to the Iranian Government on the human rights situation in Iran, including on the execution of minors. In August 2006 we joined the European Union in delivering a démarche to the Iranian Government calling on Iran to stop all death sentences for crimes committed by juveniles. The démarche referred specifically to Ms Delara Darabi's case and called for her death sentence to be overturned.

Australia has also been active in the United Nations to bring pressure on Iran to meet its obligations as a State Party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In November 2006 Australia co-sponsored a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly concerning the human rights situation in Iran. The resolution, which was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, called on Iran to stop executing juvenile offenders and respect the rights of the child.

The Australian Government recognises the important role non-government organisations play in human rights cases and will continue to work with all interested parties to improve the human rights situation in Iran.

Thank you for bringing your views to the attention of the Government.

Yours sincerely

Octavia Borthwick  
Director  
Middle East Section