



**THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP**

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr Dennis Jensen MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ref. 1037/1522

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2015 drawing my attention to a petition regarding the imprisonment of Mohammad Ali Taheri in Iran.

The Australian Government remains deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Iran, including in relation to Iran's use of intimidation and arbitrary arrest, and the ongoing use of capital punishment.

Australia consistently raises concerns about Iran's human rights situation with Iranian authorities in Canberra and in Iran, and before the United Nations, including the UN General Assembly Third Committee and the Human Rights Council. I raised human rights issues with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr Mohammad Zarif, during my visit to Iran on 18-19 April.

During Iran's second Universal Periodic Review of its human rights situation in October 2014, and before the Human Rights Council in March 2015, Australia called on Iran to release all prisoners of conscience, and urged Iran to respect detainees' human rights, ensure that national laws support the independence of lawyers, and ensure all trials are conducted fairly.

The Government will continue to pay close attention to the human rights situation in Iran and express our concerns as appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

*v best wishes*

Julie Bishop

09 JUN 2015