

April 3rd 2023

Dear Mr. Brady,

In response to your email dated 27/03/2023 and in reaction to your comments published to the Sinn Féin website on 29 March 2023 regarding Mr Bernard Phelan, I would like to draw your attention to the following facts with a view to correcting certain misinformation contained in your remarks.

Mr. Bernard Phelan is a dual national of France and Ireland. Under international law his effective nationality is French (not Irish) and his rights are protected under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. He has been in regular contact with his family via phone and both French and the Irish resident diplomats in Tehran have visited him on a number of occasions.

Mr. Phelan's case is an ordinary judicial case which is being dealt with under the applicable laws. He has been indicted and charged for certain punishable crimes. He is legally entitled to appeal the initial sentence against him and is being treated fairly well in a prison with standard conditions and medical services.

Family and media reports on the conditions of his prison cell and his critical health conditions have repeatedly been proven wrong and inaccurate. Despite false reports and inaccurate statements, the major health problem with Mr. Phelan is not cardiac or bone related. However, his illness has not been revealed by Iranian authorities for the purpose of protecting his personal data. His health conditions are otherwise fairly stable and he continues to receive regular medicine as prescribed.

Millions of people visit Iran every year for tourism, business, and other purposes and leave the country safe and sound. However, a very few number of people get arrested for violating the law or for being involved in illegal activities. It is understandable that Mr. Phelan and his family members would emotionally and conveniently deny the charges brought against their loved one. However, apart from emotions, the fact is that he has been duly charged, prosecuted, and convicted by a competent court of law which has taken into account all the evidence and merits of the case and ensured that due process was observed.

The Iranian Embassy in Ireland has communicated with Mr. Phelan's father to assure him that no effort has been spared to help his son on humanitarian and consular grounds. The Embassy has also strived to safeguard this case from being politicized and derailed from its proper judicial processes by media and political beneficiaries. Iran categorically rejects baseless allegations of

political motivations in the context of Mr. Phelan's arrest and imprisonment as misinformation aimed at smearing the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Under Iran's constitution, the Judiciary is a separate and independent branch of power and no interference from the executive branch is allowed in judicial processes. Nevertheless, Iranian authorities are making every effort in Good Faith to expedite the processes in Mr Phelan's case on humanitarian and consular grounds and in conjunction with the diplomats of the Irish Accredited Embassy in Tehran.

In light of the above facts and actual circumstances of the case, I hope you would appreciate how inapt and irresponsible your remarks have been. The inconsiderate suggestion of 'political hostages and trumped-up charges' are simply baseless. Similar insinuations have been made by those who lack a modicum of knowledge of the well-established independent judicial processes in Iran and by those who have vested interests in politicizing Mr Phelan's case.

While your competence in dealing with diplomatic and international affairs seems to be in need of considerable improvement, your honed skills in hunting every opportunity to gain publicity in the context of local politics deserve upright recognition. It is advisable, however, that politicizing a judicial matter and disrespecting the jurisdiction of a sovereign state do more harm than help to resolve the case.

Please be assured that this Embassy, will continue to cooperate with the competent Irish authorities with a view to exploring diplomatic avenues and facilitating consular services to help Bernard Phelan and his family.

Best regards,



Dr Masoud Eslami

Sincerely yours

Mr. John Brady T.D.
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