



# Ethical Action Report



*A joint publication of the American Ethical Union and the American Humanist Association*

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## **Support Peace: Oppose Military Action Against Iran**

Write a letter to the editor or an opinion editorial and send them to your local paper, explaining why it's imperative to oppose military action against Iran. Call for bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations without preconditions in order to resolve all matters of dispute between Iran and the United States.

For information to include in your LTE or op-ed, consider using the following points, outlined in a recent New York Society of Ethical Culture resolution:

- Even if Iran succeeds in acquiring nuclear weapons it is not likely that it would risk its own survival by using them against the U.S., Israel or our other allies.
- Reese Ehrick in his book, "The Iran Agenda," Zbigniew Brezinski and several other Middle-East experts, authors and reporters have noted that: (1) The Iranian people

are far from united behind the Shia clerics who rule the country; (2) President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lost support in the last election; (3) Many Iranians would like to improve relations with the U.S.; (4) An attack by the U.S. would greatly increase support for the Ayatollahs and the president; and (5) As a consequence, Iran would be in a stronger position to undermine the U.S. in many of our Middle-East conflicts and endeavors.

- Finally, the Iranians were helpful in this country's armed conflict with the Taliban. Their leaders have sent signals that they would be more helpful in other Middle-East conflicts if the U.S. renounces unprovoked, illegal, unjustified, and unethical military action against them.

## BACKGROUND

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. are rising and many fear that the potential of a military confrontation is looming. In response, the New York Society of Ethical Culture in December unanimously adopted a resolution to oppose military action against Iran and supporting bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations without preconditions in order to avoid unnecessary death and suffering. To read more about the resolution visit the following website: <http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/action-alert/>.

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## **Demand Justice:** Call for a Special Prosecutor in the CIA Tape Cover-up

Demand that Attorney General Mukasey appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute wrongdoing in the destruction of CIA videotapes of “harsh interrogation.” Sign the ACLU petition here: <http://action.aclu.org/site/R?i=C9G4hD6n995-peBbSbFLDA>

## BACKGROUND

In December it was revealed that the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed videotapes of the waterboarding of two detainees held at secret prisons—a technique that has been labeled as harsh interrogation by the authorities but what many consider to be torture.

The destruction of the tapes amounts to a cover up of evidence—and may be illegal. It appears to be part of an extensive, long-term pattern of misusing executive authority to insulate individuals from criminal prosecution for torture and abuse.

An independent prosecutor is the best way to determine if there has been wrongdoing. Many in Congress have called for an independent investigation, yet to no avail. Now is the time to show that no one is above the law: not the CIA, not the Justice Department, and not the President.

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## **Human Rights: Demand Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh's Release**

Join an international appeal and send a message demanding Afghan Journalist Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh's immediate release: <http://tinyurl.com/2pnthj>

### BACKGROUND

A young journalist from Afghanistan has been sentenced to death for blasphemy. Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh, a 23-year-old journalism student and reporter for the newspaper "Jahan-e Naw" ("The New World"), was given the death sentence on January 22 in a trial held behind closed doors and without any lawyers defending him.

Kambakhsh was arrested in October 2007 for distributing what officials say was anti-Islamic literature. He gave friends an article that said the Prophet Mohammed ignored women's rights. He was also accused of possessing anti-Islamic books and starting un-Islamic debates in class.

Kambakhsh's brother, prominent journalist Sayed Yaqub Ibrahimi, works for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and has recently come under attack for reports he has written criticizing local officials and warlords. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), IWPR and Afghan sources say they fear that the charges against Kambakhsh were a pretext meant to stop his brother from reporting.

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## **Stop Pay Discrimination: Support the Fair Pay Restoration Act**

Write to your senators and urge them to cosponsor the Fair Pay Restoration Act, which would prohibit wage discrimination based on sex, race, or national origin among employees for work in "equivalent jobs." It would reverse the damage wrought with the Supreme Court's decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*.

### BACKGROUND

In the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* decision in May 2007, the Supreme Court severely limited the ability of victims of pay discrimination to sue under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The outcome is unfair to victims of pay discrimination, and will make it difficult for women and people of color to close the wage gap.

However, the Fair Pay Restoration Act would restore the intent of the Civil Rights Act. It would allow class action lawsuits to be filed and would provide for compensatory damages. It would also go a long way in filling the information gap for workers by requiring some employers to disclose general job classifications and pay statistics.

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## *Contacting Elected Officials*

### **White House**

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The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*Phone Number*

Comments: (202) 456-1111  
Fax: (202) 456-2461

*E-mail*

President George W. Bush:  
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Richard Cheney:  
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

### **Congress**

*Mailing Address*

United States Senate  
*or*  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*Phone Number*

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

*E-mail*

Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to  
use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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