



UNIVERSITIES
AUSTRALIA

DISCOVER LEARN LEAD

Chief Executive Officer:
Dr Glenn Withers AO

28 June 2011

Ms Irina Bokova
Director-General
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
bpi@unesco.org

Dear Director-General

Access to Tertiary Education for the Baha'i faith of Iran

Australian universities are united in their strong support for facilitating access to education for all, irrespective of religious faith. We have previously written to express concern about the difficulties Iranian Baha'i were having in accessing tertiary education in that country. We were therefore concerned to receive further correspondence from the Australian Baha'i Community Office of External Affairs, to the effect that there has been no improvement in the situation and that, if anything, the situation appears to have worsened. I attach a translated letter which, according to the Australian Baha'i Community Office of External Affairs, was addressed to 81 universities in Iran from the Director-General of the Central Security Office instructing them to expel individuals of the Baha'i faith.

I wish to bring this ongoing matter to your attention in the hope that this serious injustice may be remedied.

Yours sincerely

Dr Glenn Withers AO
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General (inquiries@un.org)
The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Kevin.Rudd.MP@aph.gov.au)
His Excellency Dr Mahmoud Babaei (ambassador@iranembassy.org.au)

One Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

GPO Box 1142
Canberra ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

Ph: +61 (0)2 6285 8104
Fax: +61 (0)2 6285 8101
Mobile: +61 (0)416 249 350

glenn.withers@universitiesaustralia.edu.au
www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au