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State University of New York

Office of the Dean
School of Public Health

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Dean Nasca expresses deep concern over the detention of Dr. Kamiar Alaei

ALBANY, N.Y. (January 15, 2009) - - Philip Nasca, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany, State University of New York, expresses deep concern regarding the detention of one of the School's graduate students, Dr. Kamiar Alaei, by Iranian authorities. Both Dr. Alaei and his brother, Arash Alaei, also a physician, have been imprisoned since late June, 2008 although they have been recognized internationally for their outstanding public health activities and accomplishments. "The students and faculty of our School are deeply distressed. They recognize the outstanding humanitarian public health work accomplished by Kamiar and Arash who have been hailed by AIDS specialists throughout the world for the model they created in Iran. Public health is a global science, one that requires medical and public health professionals to collaborate and share best practices; it cannot thrive if there is not cooperation between and among experts in all countries facing similar problems. Kamiar's enthusiasm and extraordinary energy inspired those of us at this School and in the New York State Health Department. He always spoke respectfully of his country's support for the clinics he and his brother established to serve those infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS. Any misunderstanding of their scientific activities must be clarified so they can return to the work they were so successfully doing and so that Kamiar can return to his studies here in Albany. We send our fervent wishes for a positive outcome to Kamiar, Arash, their family members, those striving on their behalf, and all those served by their excellent work."

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