



Eurozine News Item

Free Ramin Jahanbegloo

Esprit has launched a [petition](#) for the release of [Ramin Jahanbegloo](#). The leading Iranian academic, philosopher, and contributor to international journals will be familiar to many of Eurozine's editors and readers. A list of publications can be found on his [website](#).

Jahanbegloo was arrested at the Tehran airport on or around Friday 28 April 2006 as he was leaving for an international conference on Iran in Brussels. After several days silence, the Iranian authorities announced Jahanbegloo's incarceration in the notorious Evin prison on 3 May 2006. Since then, posts on a [weblog](#) for Jahanbegloo's release set up by the Toronto Initiative for Iranian Studies quote official statements that he is undergoing "interrogation" and is suspected of crimes related to "security and spying".

A man of dialogue and non-violence, Jahanbegloo is the author of a work on Mahatma Gandhi as well as several conversations with European intellectuals such as Isaiah Berlin and George Steiner. The numerous initiatives he has undertaken, for example in bringing leading western intellectuals to Tehran, have been a precious source of mutual understanding between civilizations at a time when such understanding is of the utmost importance.

"Jahanbegloo's imprisonment could be the beginning of a new wave of repression against the lively Iranian intellectual scene," writes Jörg Lau in *die Zeit* on 11 May. "Ramin Jahanbegloo stands for an intellectual responsibility that does not stop at cultural, religious, or political boundaries. It is time to show him that he is not alone."

All his friends and colleagues are deeply worried about Jahanbegloo's welfare and demand his immediate release.

Eurozine adds its name to *Esprit's* list of signatories, which includes George Steiner, Richard Rorty, Toni Negri, Edgar Morin, Timothy Garton Ash, Bernard Cassen, Claude Lefort, Alain Ehrenberg, and many more. We urge our partners and readers to use whatever channels you can to spread awareness of Jahanbegloo's situation as well as to make use of the opportunities to register your support provided by the [weblog](#).

Update: Eurozine's Italian partner *Reset* has also issued an [appeal](#) for Jahanbegloo's release. He delivered a paper entitled *Against the clash of intolerances* in Cairo last March as part of the Reset Dialogues on Civilization.

