

By Anthony Vance

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anthony-vance/iran-where-friendship-is- b_819614.html

This week, four U.S.-based Iranian Baha'is will come to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the release of their innocent relatives, who have been jailed solely due to their religious beliefs. Three of the prisoners they represent are serving 10-year sentences for being part of a national administrative group known as "The Friends," or Yaran in Farsi, while another prisoner is a young woman serving a four-year sentence for engaging in a project to teach underprivileged youth how to read and write. In efforts to shine light onto a dark and deplorable human rights situation, these relatives will meet with the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Senator Mark Kirk; Congressman Frank Wolf; as well as officials at the State Department, the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** and members of the press.