

## **Mahvash Sabet (f) – The Baha’i Seven**

**Adoption Status:** Adopted by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

**Country:** Iran

**Occupation:** Educator and Baha’i member

**Detained Since:** 2008

**Charges:** Espionage, propaganda against the Islamic Republic, and establishment of an illegal administration

**Sentence:** 20 years imprisonment



**Additional:** Sabet is a teacher and school principal who was dismissed from public education for being a Baha’i. Before her arrest, she served for 15 years as director of the Baha’i Institute for Higher Education, which provides alternative higher education for Baha’i youth. She began her professional career as a teacher and also worked as a principal at several schools. In her professional role, she also collaborated with the National Literacy Committee of Iran. After the Islamic revolution, like thousands of other Iranian Baha’i educators, she was fired from her job and blocked from working in public education.

### **The Baha’i Seven**

The Baha’i Seven are former Baha’i leaders in Iran who have been deprived of the rights accorded to prisoners under Iran's own laws and regulations. Prior to their arrests in 2008, the seven were members of an ad hoc national-level group that attended to the spiritual and social needs of Iran's Baha’i community. In September 2010 they were told that their sentences had been reduced to 10 years after an appeal court acquitted them of some of the charges, including espionage, but they have never been given a written copy of either of the court verdicts. It was first reported on 18 March, 2011 that the 20-year sentence had been reinstated.

**Adopted**