

Ayatollah Mohammad Kazemeini Boroujerdi (m)

Adoption Status: Adopted by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN)

Country: Iran

Occupation: Shi'a cleric who advocates for the separation of religion and state and has spoken out on behalf of the rights of Iran's religious minorities as well as those of its Shi'a Muslim majority.

Detained Since: October 2006

Charges: "Enmity against God"

Sentence: Initially sentenced to death. An appeals court changed this to an eleven year prison sentence.

Additional: He and seventeen of his followers were tried by a special court with jurisdiction over Shi'a clerics and sentenced to death on spurious charges, including "enmity against God" and spreading propaganda against the regime. After an appeal, the death sentence was withdrawn and Ayatollah Boroujerdi was sentenced to eleven years in prison. He currently is serving his prison term, and the government has banned him from practicing his clerical duties and confiscated his home and belongings. He has suffered physical and mental abuse while in prison.



Adopted