



08 October, 2025
Reference: 2025/ICE/FARD

To:

Mr. Todd Lyons, Acting Director
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Dear Director Lyons

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the detention of Mr. Erfan Qaneei Fard, currently held under ICE custody in Texas. Mr. Fard is a political analyst, writer, and one of the founders of the Cyrus the Great Institute (CGI). For years, he has spoken out against extremism and the Iranian regime, making him a known and targeted figure.

Mr. Fard has no criminal history and has always been a peaceful and law-abiding individual. His detention therefore does not reflect a public safety concern but instead poses a grave humanitarian risk.

What makes this situation especially urgent is not only that Mr. Fard is in custody, but that he is under imminent threat of deportation to Iran. Such a removal would certainly place his life in immediate and grave danger. He is well known to the regime in Tehran, which has a long record of persecuting dissidents. Deporting him would risk imprisonment, torture, or execution.

On behalf of the CGI, I respectfully request your urgent intervention to:

- 1) Review his detention status and consider humanitarian relief or parole.
- 2) Halt any deportation proceedings until his case has been fully and fairly considered.

The United States has long upheld the principle that individuals should not be returned to countries where they face persecution. Mr. Fard's case is a clear test of that commitment.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

Babak Shekarabi
Spokesperson



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