

27 October 2006

The Office of the Honourable Clayton Cosgrove  
Associate Minister of Immigration  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

FAXED

BY FAX: 04 472 6791

Re: **Hossein Thomas Yadegary**  
**New information (Amnesty International)**

We are in receipt of the Associate Minister's decision not to intervene in Mr Yadegary's case dated 29 September 2006.

We are writing to you as a result of a letter we have received from Amnesty International which highlights its changed position about Mr Yadegary's situation.

We enclose a copy of the letter for your perusal and consideration.

The author of the letter, Ms Margaret Taylor, was recently seen on TV advocating the view that Christian converts were not in danger of being persecuted in Iran.

After consulting her colleagues in various overseas missions, she has now advised that in fact recent country information suggests very strongly that Christian converts are in danger of being persecuted in Iran. Since the election of President Ahmadinejad the persecution of religious minorities in Iran has intensified. Her earlier opinion was therefore based on out of date information.

On the basis of the recent country information which has now been considered by Amnesty International, clearly it is now advocating that Mr Yadegary be released and that apostate Christians have a genuine fear in Iran. In this regard we refer to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Amnesty International's letter as follows:

*"Amnesty International is constantly assessing the human rights situation and our current position is to oppose the return of proven converts as any such return would be unsafe"*

*Within the Refugee Status Appeals Authority ("RSAA") decision, which declined Mr Yadegary's refugee status, it acknowledged the genuineness of his conversion to Catholicism.*