



SOUVENIR OF BERLIN

**Reports And Descriptions Of Mohammad Khaksari Concerning
His Participation In *5Th Education International* (Ei) World
Congress As The First Iranian Teachers' Syndicate Activist
And The Editor In Chief Of Teacher's Pen Weekly Paper**

**Mohammad Khaksari
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PREFACE

Souvenir of Berlin is based on the reports and reflections of [Mohammad Khaksari](#) regarding his participation in the [Fifth Education International \(EI\) World Conference](#), which was held in Berlin, Germany, from July 22 to 26, 2007. Mohammad Khaksari (Persian: محمد خاکساری) is the owner and editor-in-chief of the Iranian teachers' magazine *Teacher's Pen Weekly Paper* (Persian: *Ghalame Moalem*, هفته نامه قلم معلم). He is also the husband of [Soraya Darabi](#) and an Iranian teachers' trade union activist and the former Vice President of the ITTA. Mohammad Khaksari was one of the *leading co-founders* of the first independent non-governmental association and an independent labour union for Iranian teachers and education workers: the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association (syndicate), commonly known as ITTA (Persian: *Kanune Senfi-ye Moaleman-e Iran*, کانون صنفی معلمان ایران)

For several years, [Mohammad Khaksari](#) faced intimidation, persecution, and legal charges by the political judiciary of the Iranian regime, particularly the [Revolutionary Court](#). These pressures were related to his role on the elected board of directors of ITTA and to his journalistic activities as editor-in-chief of *Ghalame Moalem*, which was eventually banned by [Ahmadinejad's government](#) (you can read further information on this matter at [KHAKSARI.ORG](#)).

In June 2007, Khaksari was invited by the EI General Secretary, Mr. [Fred van Leeuwen](#), to participate in the [5th EI World Conference in Berlin](#) as the editor-in-chief of the Iranian teachers' magazine *Teacher's Pen* and as a representative voice of the Iranian teachers' movement. The image of EI's invitation appears on page 65 of *Souvenir of Berlin*. Khaksari shared the invitation with his colleagues at ITTA, and the board agreed to his participation, despite concerns about the likely heavy political consequences from the regime's [Ministry of Intelligence and security](#) agencies.

Despite these risks, M. Khaksari accepted EI's invitation and placed himself in *a dangerous political situation* in order to attend the Fifth EI Congress. As a result, he became the first member of an independent Iranian teachers' union to participate in an EI World Conference after the 1979 Revolution. However, upon returning to Tehran International Airport after the conference, he was immediately arrested by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence before he could even leave the airport gates and reunite with his family and colleagues. After several hours of interrogation, the Ministry of Intelligence and the [Pasdaran](#) forces at Khomeini Airport released Mohammad Khaksari (thanks also to the protest and solidarity of various teachers and trade union activists). However, the Pasdaran forces has confiscated his passport, as well as all EI brochures, scholastic documents, papers, reports, workshop slides, and related educational materials. During the interrogation, they also splayed out a serious judicial case against M. Khaksari. A few days after his arrest, Khaksari was summoned to the Revolutionary Court of Tehran on charges including "illegal participation in an international conference," "acting against national security," and "propaganda activities against the

holy regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran." The Revolutionary Court also confiscated Khaksari's travel documents and officially banned him from traveling abroad for more than two consecutive years. In addition, the court made his temporary liberty and freedom of movement conditional upon a financial guarantee equivalent to 100,000,000 [tomans](#) and imposed five years of conditional freedom. The Revolutionary Court of Tehran claimed that his sentence was not severe due to the "mercy of the regime" and the "kind compassion of the Court."

Under these discriminatory and politically repressive circumstances, Mohammad Khaksari, together with his son [Sajjad Kyros Khaksari](#), he documented and developed *Souvenir of Berlin*. The book presents an experiential and empirical account of M. Khaksari's active participation in the EI World Conference, as well as the sad political consequences that followed. It contains an introduction, a full report of seven days (of conference experiences), M. Khaksari's personal notes and reflections, important regulations and documents, and a collection of useful links and references.

CONTENTS OF SOUVENIR OF BERLIN

CHAPTER 1: What Is EI and How Does It Work?

Chapter 1 explains the role, structure, and function of Education International (EI) in detail. It also discusses the position of the International Labour Organization and includes seven fully developed reports covering the beginning, development, and conclusion of the Fifth EI World Conference in [Berlin](#). In addition, this chapter contains the full text of [Mohammad Khaksari's public speech](#) and ITTA's statement prepared for presentation at the conference.

CHAPTER 2: Travel and EI Participation as an Achievement for Iranian Teachers

This chapter explains the rationale and benefits of international engagement for the development and multicultural enrichment of Iranian teachers' unions. It steadily encourages Iranian teachers to participate in global dialogues and highlights the significant value of international communication among trade union and syndicate organizations worldwide. Furthermore, Chapter 2 emphasizes the necessity and urgent need for ITTA and other labor unions to participate actively in workers' union movements in order to learn and promote *sustainable improvements* in Iran's education system, schools' conditions, teachers' working qualities, and students' *creative learning* environments.

CHAPTER 3: Definition of "Chaos"

In the sorrowful final chapter, M. Khaksari responds to accusations made against him by one of the Pro-Khamenei weekly paper ([Ansar-e Hezbollah](#)) under the label "Khaksari's Chaos." In this sad chapter, Khaksari also addresses inequitable allegations published by [Yalasarat](#) (یا لشارت) and their unfair propaganda in parallel to his participation in the Fifth EI World Conference.

Sincerely yours,

[Sajjad Kyros Khaksari](#)