

The ICC Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 21st, 2024

Attendees: Arezou Khadir, Mona Ghasemi, Asoudeh Novin, Mona Borghei, Mohammad Rad, Daniel Bagheri Sarvestani, Reza Namdari, Amir H. Ghaseminejad

Agenda: Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions in Canada, ICC statements, exhibitions, public relations, mental health sessions, Nowruz Festival and meetings, choice of hosting company.

The meeting was officially called in order at 8:30pm EST, 5:30pm PST after Arezou Khadir welcomed the attendees.

Mona Ghasemi reported that after that the government of Canada formed Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions in Canada, ICC submitted an initial letter to the inquiry in early February. ICC sent the application for standing in the committee on 14th of February. The application was approved by the judge on March 7th which granted ICC an intervener standing in the inquiry. Asoudeh Novin and Mona Ghasemi were nominated by the board and were accepted as ICC representatives in the commission. ICC submitted a first communique on March 11th and a closing submission for stage I on 15th of April. The board expressed special thanks to Mona Borghei and Mona Ghasemi for their hard work to prepare the submissions. Mona Ghasemi reported that the current phase was about foreign interference in 2019 and 2021 elections and the next phase will be broader and more related to community organizations. She explained the next phase of Public Inquiry which will continue in Fall 2024.

Reza Namdari reported that the text of ICC statement has been sent to all members through email which has led to supportive feedback from our members. One of the members has brought a set of bracelets made by autistic children in Iran which ICC may offer to interested people for a donation. There has been a good response to ICC calendar and more than a thousand dollars of donations have been collected. Since our last meeting we have had three statements:

- Statement regarding the recent escalation of conflict in the Red Sea on 14th of January 2024
- Comments Regarding Public Hearing Remarks by Mr. Hamed Esmaeilion on 10th of April 2024
- Statement on Recent Escalation of Tensions in West Asia 15th of April 2024

Asoudeh Novin reported that we had an ICC meeting at Clubhouse in which we informed the community about our participation with Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in which we asked the community to share with us any instance of foreign interference about which they have information. ICC held a multimedia visual arts exhibition (sculpture, painting, etc.) regarding global injustice toward women on March 8th, the women's day, on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook with more than a thousand views. We are doing a feasibility study to hold an Iranian carpet exhibition online.

Mona Borghei reported on mental health sessions. A session regarding depression with Dr. Kamran Shoorangiz, three sessions regarding sexual education for children with Dr. Elham Gerami, a session regarding the roots of difficulties in children behavior with Dr. Raheleh Tarani, a session regarding “The association between parent and child relationship with the relationship between couples based on attachment theory” with Dr. Raheleh Tarani, a session regarding “parenting styles” with Mojdeh Pourhossein has been held from our last board meeting.

Daniel Bagheri Sarvestani has attended the 23rd United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as part of delegation of Miskito nation from Nicaragua and Hinduras and is planning publish papers and ICC podcasts.

Mohammad Rad reported about the seventh Nowruz Festival held in Montreal in which ICC had a booth. Arezu Khadir, president, and Mona Ghasemi , vice president, were welcoming the visitors during the event. Also, Arezu Khadir, Mona Ghasemi, Mohammad Rad, and Reza Namdari attended a community meeting in which frank conversation between supporters of ICC and critics were exchanged. Board members explained the logic of ICC participation in Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Canada for the attendees.

Arezu has attended a closed gathering with a group of Iranian students in European Universities at Café Didar in which she explained the importance and benefits of community engagement such as institutions such as ICC. Mona Ghasemi and Arezu Khadir participated in the Longueuil for Palestine demonstration in April where Mona read a statement in that regard for the audience.

Last year the board had decided to move to A2 Hosting and try to use Open Source Civicrm to reduce costs. Since the implementation of Civicrm has been proven to be immature, a decision was made to move back to Hostgator or another cheaper alternative.

The board members approved the minutes of the previous board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at pm 10:32EST or 7:32PST.