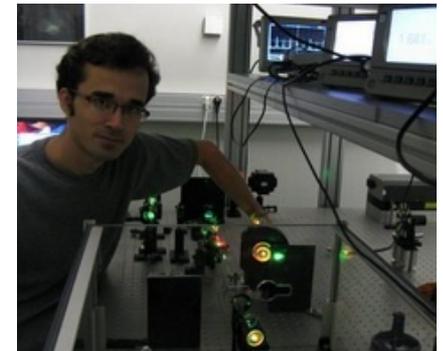




## OMID KOKABEE



- 1982 born in Northern Iran, in a middle class family belonging to Sunni Muslim Turkmen Ethnic Group
- 2000 at age 18 meets with the Iranian Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a small group of students that "demonstrated extraordinary intellectual power in the country's nationwide college entrance exams"
- 2000-2005 double major in Applied Physics and Mechanical Engineering at Sharif University of Technology
- 2003-2005 concurrently works for Sanate Choube Shomal Co. (International Transactions Section)
- 2005-2006 Researcher at the Electro-Optics Department of Zener Electronics Co., Iran
- 2006-2007 Researcher at the Laboratory of Gas Spectroscopy of the Iranian Institute of Petroleum
- 2007 joins Optical Society of America (OSA)  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)  
Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers
- 2007-2010 studies photonics at the Institute of Photonic Studies, Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Barcelona  
7 papers on ultra-intense lasers in peer review journals, 17 conference presentations,  
shows interest in entrepreneurship and technology-based start-ups, takes courses:  
"From Science to Business" at ESADE Business School in Barcelona  
"Entrepreneurship in Photonics" at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- 2010 returns to Iran four times for job interviews and family visits  
joins the American Physical Society (APS)
- Fall 2010 begins doctoral studies in quantum optics at the University of Texas – Austin,  
supported by Graduate Fellowship from the U. of Texas and by Teaching  
Assistantship (Quantum Mechanics II, lectures by Professor Greg Sitz)
- January 2011 goes to Tehran for a family visit during winter break



- Jan 30, 2011 Kokabee is arrested at Tehran airport on his departure to the U.S. He is taken to Evin prison, held in a solitary confinement, charged with “communicating with a hostile government” and “illegal earnings”
- Spring 2011 MIA at the U. of Texas - Austin. Chair of Physics gets a call from the family asking not to go public with the disappearance of Omid. Pressure on family suspected.
- May 2011 Iran’s human rights groups publicize Kokabee’s arrest  
Nature magazine writes about missing physicist  
Committee of Concerned Scientists (CCS) begins to monitor Kokabee’s case, alerts other science and human rights organizations
- July 8, 2011 CCS learns that Kokabee’s trial is scheduled for July 16
- July 14, 2011 CCS publishes an open letter to the Supreme Leader of Iran, calling Kokabee’s arrest “a grave mistake”  
Iranian opposition website Kaleme publishes an open letter from Kokabee to the head of Iran's judiciary, in which Kokabee claims his innocence and describes harsh interrogation techniques used against him to extract false confessions
- July 15, 2011 Nature and Physics World publish articles about Omid Kokabee, citing letters from CCS and Kaleme
- July 16, 2011 Kokabee is brought to the courthouse but later in the day returned to prison without hearing
- Sept, 2011 Presidents of four optical societies (OSA, SPIE, ICO, EOS) write to Ayatollah Ali Khamene’i, APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists protests jailing of Kokabee
- Oct 4, 2011 First hearing. Kokabee denies all charges, not allowed to speak with a lawyer, trial postponed
- March 2012 Case enters Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran submitted to the UN General Assembly
- May 12, 2012 Kokabee is rushed to the courthouse to stand trial with a group of prisoners summarily accused of working for Israeli and U.S. intelligence agencies. No facts are presented by the prosecution. Iranian TV shows some prisoners thanking the government for arresting them, begging for clemency. Kokabee denies all charges. Judge Salavati sentences him to 10 years in prison.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivfiXAIvycQ&feature=youtu.be>

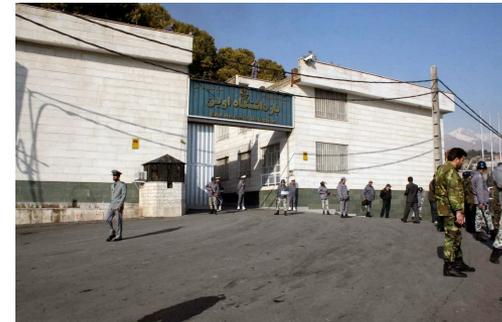


- May 2012 President of the American Chemical Society writes to Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, asking him to insure that Kokabee's case is addressed in a manner consistent with recognized standards of due process.
- June 2012 Conference at MIT devoted to Kokabee's case.
- July 2012 Special Session on Kokabee at the International Meeting on Nanomagnetism and Superconductivity in Comaruga - Spain.
- July 2012 President of the American Society for Photobiology writes to Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, requesting that Kokabee's conviction be overturned.
- August 2012 Tehran's court of appeal upholds the 10-year sentence imposed on Omid Kokabee
- October 2012 Website <http://freeomid.org> is established by Omid's friends and colleagues in Catalonia
- Jan/Feb 2013 Reports are coming that Omid developed kidney disease in prison, lost 15 pounds, needs hospitalization. Nature and Physics World write about Kokabee.
- February 2013 Judge adds 91 days to Kokabee's 10-year prison sentence for teaching languages, physics, and math to the inmates. CCS issues a protest on its Website addressed to Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i.
- Winter 2013 Physics Department of the U. of Texas – Austin runs a petition on behalf of Kokabee, UT students make a movie.
- April 2013 Nature releases copies of two Omid's open letters to his friends in which he discloses that since 2005 he has declined numerous offers of scientific and managerial positions in the Iran's military and intelligence organizations. The day before his arrest Kokabee declined the job offer made to him by senior officer of the AEOI - Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.
- May 2013 CCS writes to the Director General of International Atomic Energy Administration - IAEA, with copies to US Secretary of State and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran:  
“ ... It is a violation of human rights to coerce a scientist to participate in military projects that he does not want to support ... “

- July 2013 Panel Discussion on Kokabee at Ateneo – Barcelona’s major lecture hall
- July 2013 freomid.org runs petition asking mayor of Madrid to rename Jerez street, where Iranian embassy is located, to Kokabee street.
- August 2013 Birjad University invites Kokabee to give presentation on his article written in prison, titled “Absolute Optimization in the Output of Optical Oscillators”, at the Annual Meeting on Laser Technology. Permission denied by judicial authorities.
- August 2013 CCS publishes letters to Iranian officials (drafted by Ellen Hutchison – UT law student with the assistance of Kokabee’s attorney and human rights experts) that conclude from a careful study of international treaties that Kokabee’s case involves serious violations of due process.
- September 2013 American Physical Society awards **Andrei Sakharov prize to Omid Kokabee “for his courage in refusing to use his physics knowledge to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity, in the face of extreme physical and psychological pressure”**
- November 16, 2013 The case of Omid Kokabee is featured at the Panel Discussion at Georgetown University, organized by Amnesty International USA



Kokabee



Evin prison