



Manouchehr Ganji | Class of 1962

Manouchehr Ganji served as Iran's Minister for Education from 1976 to 1979. He had earlier acted as an advisor to Prime Minister Hoveida between the years of 1974 and 1976. Before that, he was the founder and the first director of Tehran university's Centre for Graduate International Studies. During the 1979 Iranian revolution, Ganji was forced to flee Iran to Turkey by foot. Since then, Ganji has been active in bringing violations of human rights in Iran by the ruling clerics to the world's attention.



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During Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's reign, Ganji convinced him to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to open up permanent offices in Iran, to visit and inspect Iranian prisons and guarantee that no torture was taking place there.

Ganji was the first Special Rapporteur for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the question of apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa, including South Africa, South West Africa (now known as Namibia) and Southern Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe), during 1967–1969.

Ganji was the founder and secretary general of the 'Derafsh Kaviani' (the Flag of Freedom Organisation of Iran "FFO"), a democratic non-violent opposition movement to the clerical regime.

