

URGENT ACTION

IRANIAN LAWYER STILL RISKS PROSECUTION

Mohammad Mostafaei, an Iranian lawyer and human rights defender, has been released on bail. He is accused of “conspiring against state security” and “propaganda against the system”. Mohammad Mostafaei is likely to face prosecution and if imprisoned he would be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his human rights activities and the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association.

Mohammad Mostafaei was released from section 209 of Evin prison in the Iranian capital, Tehran on 1 July after the payment of one billion Iranian rials (approximately US\$ 102,000). Mohammad Mostafaei was arrested in Tehran on 25 June by plainclothes security officials. He was told he is accused of “conspiring against state security” and “propaganda against the system”. Following his release Mohammad Mostafaei expressed his gratitude and thanked all those who campaigned for his release, stating: “My imprisonment made me more determined than ever to stand firmly for human rights”.

Mohammad Mostafaei is a human rights lawyer who is known for his campaigning against the execution in Iran of people convicted of crimes committed when they were under the age of 18. He is representing at least 25 juveniles sentenced to death for such crimes.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Persian, Arabic, English, French or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Mohammad Mostafaei;
- seeking specific details of the reasons for his arrest and any legal proceedings he might be facing;
- calling on the authorities to end the harassment of human rights defenders in Iran;
- stating that if he is again detained solely in connection with the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association and his human rights activities, Amnesty International will consider him to be a prisoner of conscience.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 AUGUST 2009 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic
 Ayatollah Sayed ‘Ali Khamenei
 The Office of the Supreme Leader
 Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
 Keshvar Doust Street, Tehran, Islamic Republic
 of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir
via website:
<http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter>
 (English)
<http://www.leader.ir/langs/fa/index.php?p=letter>
 (Persian)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary
 Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi
 Shahrودي
 Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
 (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
 Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of
 Serah-e Jomhuri, Tehran
 1316814737, Islamic Republic of
 Iran
Email: shahroudi@dadgostary-tehran.ir
**(In the subject line write: FAO
 Ayatollah Shahrودي)**
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
 Iranian Bar Association
 No. 3, Zagros St.,
 Argentina Sq.,
 Tehran,
 Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 8771340
or +98 21 888 6425/ 26
Email: tamas@iranbar.org
or mail@iranbar.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

This is the first update of UA: 175/09, Index: MDE
13/064/2009, 29 June 2009. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/064/2009/en>



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the announcement on 13 June that President Ahmadinejad had won the previous day's presidential election, which hundreds of thousands of Iranians dispute, the Iranian authorities have imposed draconian restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly. Access to the internet has been blocked or significantly interrupted. Iranian publications have been banned from publishing information about the nationwide unrest since the result was declared. Foreign journalists have been banned from the streets, and some foreign reporters have been expelled from the country.

Scores of people are reported to have been arrested across the country, including prominent political figures close to either Mir Hossein Mousavi, fellow presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi or former President Khatami, who supported Mir Hossein Mousavi's campaign. Some human rights defenders, as well as journalists have also been detained. On 16 June lawyer and human rights defender Abdolfattah Soltani, was also arrested and detained (please see UA 160/09, MDE 13/059/2009, 19 June 2009: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/059/2009/en>). On 24 June, 70 academics met leading opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi, and were arrested as they left his office. All but four were later released. Those still detained include the head of Mir Hossein Mousavi's election campaign, Dr Ghorban Behzadian and Ardeshir Amir Arjomand who is a professor of law at Shahid Beheshti University. Hundreds of others have been arrested during demonstrations against the outcome of the election which have been met with excessive use of force. Many have been beaten and, according to the authorities, up to 21 have been killed, although the true number is likely to be higher.

Further Information on UA: 175/09, Index: MDE 13/065/2009, Issue Date: 02 July 2009

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