

EXTERNAL

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**MEDICAL CONCERN**

(See MDE 13/24/90 - 1 November 1990)

© FURTHER INFORMATION ON PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ARRESTED IN  
JUNE 1990 IN IRAN

Amnesty International has received further information regarding a number of people arrested in June 1990 after signing an open letter to President Rafsanjani critical of Iranian government policies. Over 20 people were arrested for signature of the letter or for their peaceful activities in support of the Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation (ADFSIN), of which several were members. Ten of those arrested are now reported to have been released, including Hossein Bani Assadi, Hossein Shah-Hosseini and Dr Noor-Ali Tabandeh, who were reported to have been in ill-health. It is not known whether their release is unconditional or only temporary, pending trial.

Amnesty International earlier expressed its concern about these prisoners and about a further five who are also reported to be in ill-health and who remain in detention. They are:

. Ali Ardalan, aged about 75, and Head of ADFSIN's Executive Committee. Ali Ardalan, who has been imprisoned on previous occasions, suffers from ischaemic heart disease for which he has been receiving medical attention for over 20 years. He was said to be without medication in prison and recent reports indicate that the authorities are again refusing to accept medication brought to the prison for him.

. Abolfazl Mirshams Shahshahani, a former judge who was a central council member of ADFSIN. He is aged 58 and reported to be suffering from tubercular osteomyelitis.

. Hormoz Momaizzi, who is said to suffer myopathy affecting his lower limbs.

. Hashem Sabbaghian, who is among a number of the detainees said to have been tortured. He is reported to have suffered a slipped disc and damage to his spinal column as a result. The most recent reports describe him as being in a "delicate" state, although no further details are available.

. Dr Habibollah Davaran, a pharmacologist in his seventies. Earlier reported to be in poor health, he is now said to have been hospitalized for a fracture to his arm before then being returned to Evin Prison.

The detainees, who are all being held in Tehran's Evin Prison, have been adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. The organization continues to call for their immediate and unconditional release and is seeking assurances that those said to be in need of medical attention are afforded whatever medical care they may require.

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To: Medical professionals  
 From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East  
 Date: 25 January 1991

## ***FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

(MDE 13/24/90 - 1 November 1990)

### **ARREST OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN IRAN**

#### **Keywords**

Theme: ill-health/POC

#### **Summary**

Approximately ten of the more than 20 people arrested in June 1990 for having signed an open letter to President Rafsanjani critical of government policies, are now reported to have been released, probably pending trial. The remainder, some of whom are elderly or in ill-health, are still held in Evin prison. All are adopted as prisoners of conscience.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below:

- welcoming the release of some of the members of this group and urging that all those who remain in detention be immediately and unconditionally released
- noting that some of the detainees are said to be in ill-health (names should be given) and seeking information on their current state
- seeking assurances that those said to require medical care will be granted access to any medical attention and treatment they may require

#### **Addresses**

His Excellency Hojatolislam  
 Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani  
 President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
 Nahaad-e Riyasat-e Jomhuri (Office of the President)  
 Palestine Avenue  
 Azerbaijan Intersection  
 Tehran  
 Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran  
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR  
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)

Dr Reza Malekzadeh  
Minister of Health and Medical Education  
Ministry of Health  
Jomhuri Avenue,  
Youssufabad Junction  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Minister of Health Malekzadeh, Tehran, Iran  
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR  
(marked for the attention of Minister of Health and Medical Education)

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi  
Head of the Judiciary  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Head Judiciary Yazdi, Tehran, Iran  
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR  
(marked for the attention of Head of the Judiciary)

**Copies to:**

His Excellency Ali Akbar Velayati  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Sheikh Abdolmajid Avenue  
Rooshk-e Mesri  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran