

PUBLIC

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31 March 2003

UA 88/03 Legal concern/fear for safety/medical concern

IRAN Amir Abbas Fakhravar (also known as Syavash), (m), aged 26

Medical student, writer and journalist, Amir Abbas Fakhravar was beaten in front of Bench 26 of the Revolutionary Court, in the north of the capital Tehran. He is currently in Qasr prison, amongst common law prisoners, where he has been denied medical treatment for severe injuries sustained in court and an existing foot injury.

He had been granted leave from Evin prison in Tehran, when he received a telephone call from Bench 26 of the Revolutionary Court in North Tehran ordering him to hear an appeal against his eight year sentence for writing a book which was critical of the Iranian state. He was ordered to appear in court on 18 March and his family were threatened in order to make him appear. When Amir Abbas Fakhravar appeared in court, he was denied representation by the two lawyers who had represented him on previous occasions. After an argument with the judge, he was beaten in front of judges, court officials and both his parents, before being transferred to prison.

It is thought that Amir Abbas Fakhravar may have been targeted after jointly writing an open letter to the authorities together with imprisoned student Ahmad Batebi. In the letter, written on 4 February 2003, the two men criticized the Iranian government, called for a boycott of all elections and demanded a fair referendum on the future government of Iran. The text of the letter is available at http://www.iranvajahan.net/cgi-bin/news_en.pl?l=en&y=2003&m=02&d=08&a=1

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French, Farsi or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Amir Abbas Fakhravar, who was beaten in front of Bench 26 of the revolutionary court in the north of Tehran;
- calling for him to be given access to any necessary medical treatment;
- seeking assurances that he has access to legal representation;
- seeking details of the exact charges and trial proceedings against Amir Abbas Fakhravar, including details of any appeal against his conviction;
- expressing concern that he was tried in a Revolutionary Court, whose procedures fall far short of international standards for fair trial;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations under Article 10 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that those deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Leader of Islamic Republic, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880 / 21 774 2228 (ask fax to be forwarded to Ayatollah Khamenei)

Email: webmaster@wilayah.org; (on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency, Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegram: President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 649 5880

Email: khatami@president.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice

Park-e Shahr

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegram: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (This is the Public Relations Office. Please ask for your message to be forwarded to the Head of the Judiciary)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Tehran, Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

Salutation: Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 May 2003.