

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/13/94  
Distr: UA/SC

28 November 1994

Further information on UA 168/94 (MDE 13/03/94, 28 April 1994) - Fear of torture / Fear of death penalty and new concern: Death in custody

IRAN

Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani, writer

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On 27 November 1994, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani had died of a heart attack in an unspecified Tehran hospital on the same day. Amnesty International is gravely concerned by his death and is calling for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding it.

Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani was arrested on 14 March and was believed to have been held in incommunicado detention until recently when he was reported to have been put under house arrest in a house owned by the government where he remained incommunicado.

Officials have accused him in the press of drug abuse, brewing alcohol, homosexual acts, links with espionage networks and receiving money from "counter-revolutionary" circles in the West. Some of these offences carry the death penalty. However, the real reason for his arrest appeared to be open letters he had written to the government objecting to the censorship of dissenting voices in Iran.

Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani's family have said that they have no knowledge of him having any prior history of heart trouble.

Most of Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani's writings were effectively banned in Iran, as he was unable to get a permit to have them printed and distributed.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing grave concern at the death of Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani;
- urging an immediate thorough and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death;
- urging that the conclusions and methods of the investigation be made public.

**APPEALS TO**

1) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam  
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran**  
**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR**  
**(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) His Excellency Ayatollah  
Seyed Ali Khamanei  
The Presidency

Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR**  
**Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi  
Head of the Judiciary  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran**  
**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR**  
**(marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) His Excellency  
Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Dr Fatemi Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran**  
**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR**  
**(marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency  
Dr Ali Akbar Velayati  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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 5 January 1995.