

PUBLIC

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23 March 2006

UA 65/06 Medical concern/ possible prisoners of conscience/ Fear of torture and ill-treatment

IRAN

Ma'soumeh Ka'bi (f), aged 28  
Imad (m), aged 4, son of Ma'soumeh Ka'bi  
Soghra Khudayrawi (f)  
Zeidan (m), aged 4, son of Soghra Khudayrawi  
Sakina Naisi (f), aged 40

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The three women and two children named above, all members of Iran's Arab minority, were reportedly arrested in the city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan province on 27 February and 8 March. They are not known to have had access to their families or lawyers of their choice and could be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. One of the women, Sakina Naisi, is three months' pregnant and suffers from asthma. She may not be receiving the medical attention that she requires.

Ma'soumeh Ka'bi, the wife of prominent political activist Habib Nabgan, was arrested along with the couple's four-year-old son Imad at their home at about 2am on 27 February. Their four other children, aged between 6 and 13, and Habib Nabgan's mother, were also arrested but were released the following day. Ma'soumeh Ka'bi and Imad have reportedly been held at the Sepidar detention centre in Ahvaz since 8 March. Habib Nabgan, who has fled the country, has received threats that his family will be tortured or killed if he does not return to Iran.

Soghra Khudayrawi and her four-year-old son Zeidan were reportedly arrested in Ahvaz on 7 March 2006. Her husband, Khalaf Derhab Khudayrawi, is said to be wanted by the authorities in connection with his political activities. Amnesty International has no information about where they are held.

Sakina Naisi, a mother of five, was reportedly arrested in Ahvaz on 27 February 2006 along with her 19-year-old son Nahez and taken to the Sepidar detention centre. Nahez was reportedly released after about 10 days in detention. Sakina Naisi is three months' pregnant and reportedly suffers from asthma. She may not have regular access to adequate medical care. Her husband, Ahmad Naisi, a prominent political activist, is said to be wanted by the authorities. Following Sakina Naisi's arrest, the Iranian authorities reportedly destroyed her husband's family home in the Sho'aybiyeh district of Ahvaz with bulldozers.

Amnesty International believes all five are very likely to be prisoners of conscience held solely in order to force their husbands and fathers to give themselves up to the Iranian authorities. As such they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Much of Iran's Arab community lives in the southern province of Khuzestan which borders Iraq. It is strategically important because it is the site of much of Iran's oil reserves, but the Arab population does not feel it has benefited as much from the oil revenue as the Persian population. Historically, the Arab community has been marginalised and discriminated against. Tension has mounted among the Arab population since April 2005, after it was alleged that the government planned to disperse the country's Arab population or to force them to relinquish their Arab identity. Hundreds have been arrested and there have been reports of torture. Following bomb explosions in Ahvaz City in June and October 2005, which killed at least 14 people, and explosions at oil installations in September and October, the cycle of violence has intensified, with hundreds of people reportedly arrested. Further bombings on 24 January 2006, in which at least six people were killed, were followed by further mass arrests. Two men, Mehdi Nawaseri and Ali Awdeh Afrawi, were executed in public on 2 March 2006 after being convicted of involvement in the October

bombings. Their executions followed unfair trials before a Revolutionary Court during which they are believed to have been denied access to lawyers, and their confessions were broadcast on television.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic, Persian or your own language:**

- expressing concern that the three women and two four-year-old children named above are very probably prisoners of conscience, held solely in order to force their husbands and fathers to give themselves up to the Iranian authorities;
- calling on the authorities to release all five immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern for the safety of all five and seeking assurances that they are not being tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- expressing concern that Sakina Naisi may not have access to medical care, which she requires as she is pregnant and reportedly suffers from asthma;
- calling for all the detainees to be given immediate access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and medical treatment as required.

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street, Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax: + 98 251 7 774 2228 (mark "FAO the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei")**

**Email: [info@leader.ir](mailto:info@leader.ir) OR [istiftaa@wilayah.org](mailto:istiftaa@wilayah.org)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email: [irjpr@iranjudiciary.org](mailto:irjpr@iranjudiciary.org) (mark "Please forward to His Excellency Ayatollah Shahroudi")**

**OR via the judiciary website: [www.iranjudiciary.org/feedback\\_en.html](http://www.iranjudiciary.org/feedback_en.html)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax: + 98 21 6 649 5880**

**Email: [dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir](mailto:dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir) OR via website: [www.president.ir/email](http://www.president.ir/email)**

Minister of the Interior

Hojjatoleslam Mustafa Purmohammadi  
Ministry of the Interior, Dr Fatemi Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email: [ravabetomomi@moi.gov.ir](mailto:ravabetomomi@moi.gov.ir)**

**Fax: + 98 21 8 896 203 / 8 899 547/ 6 650 203**

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 4 May 2006.