

Yas-e-No was closed down along with *Shargh* on 18 February 2004 for publishing a letter in which parliamentarians accused the Supreme Leader of heading a system that abused people's rights. *Shargh* later re-opened, but was closed down again on 11 September 2006 after it published a cartoon perceived by some as an insult to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and for failing to follow an order to replace its managing director.

On 23 October 2006, the authorities also banned the daily *Rozegar*, which had taken on many of the *Shargh* journalists, because the appearance of the newspaper was very much like that of *Shargh*, and for a new publication to resemble a banned one in this way is forbidden by Article 33 of the Press Law.

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

- expressing concern that the trial of journalist Ali Farahbakhsh appears to have been summary in nature: his lawyer was unable to prepare adequately for the trial since his access to the relevant documents was delayed or denied, and that neither he nor his client were given adequate time to meet to prepare for the trial;
- stating that Ali Farahbakhsh appears to have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his internationally recognized right to freedom of expression or association, which would make him a prisoner of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- asking for a detailed account of the reasons for his arrest, the specific charges brought against him and the details of his trial;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that he is not tortured or ill-treated, and to allow him immediate access to any medical treatment he may require.

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

Email: info@leader.ir
istiftaa@wilayah.org

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Justice Building, Panzdah-Khordad Square, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 3390 4986 (please keep trying)

Email: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

via website: www.president.ir/email

Speaker of Parliament

His Excellency Gholamali Haddad Adel

Majles-e Shoura-ye Eslami, Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 6 646 1746

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 7 June 2007.