

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/070/2006

23 June 2006

Further Information on UA 34/06 (MDE 13/011/2006, 10 February 2006) and follow-up (MDE 13/022/2006, 28 February 2006) - Possible incommunicado detention/ fear of torture and ill-treatment/ possible prisoner of conscience

IRAN Elham Afroutan (f), aged 21, journalist and member of the Writers' Association,
Up to six other journalists

New name: Mohsen Dorostkar (m), journalist

Journalists Elham Afroutan and Mohsen Dorostkar, who were both arrested in January following the publication of a satirical article, have reportedly been released on bail.

Elham Afroutan, a journalist working for the provincial weekly newspaper *Tammadon-e Hormozgan* (Hormozgan's Civilization) was reportedly released from Evin prison on 11 June on payment of 300 million Rials bail (around US \$ 33,000). She is reportedly still facing charges before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran of insulting the Leader, officials and institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and spreading "propaganda against the system".

Mohsen Dorostkar, the editor-in-chief of the *Tammadon-e Hormozgan* newspaper, was reportedly released on 8 June after payment of the same bail amount. Mohsen Dorostkar was initially released on 7 June but was rearrested as he was getting into a car to leave, and was taken to section 350 of Evin prison. He was released the next morning.

Elham Afroutan's lawyer, Abdolsamad Khorramshahi, is reported as saying that both she and Mohsen Dorostkar deny the charges against them.

Although the original reports stated that up to six other journalists had been arrested in January, Amnesty International has not been able to confirm these numbers nor has it received other names than those two above mentioned.

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

- welcoming the release on bail of Elham Afroutan and Mohsen Dorostkar;
- asking to be informed in detail of the charges brought against them;
- urging the authorities to drop all the charges brought against them if they are solely related to the publication of the article, as if convicted they would be considered prisoners of conscience held solely on account of the peaceful exercise of their internationally recognized right to freedom of expression
- reminding the authorities that as a state party to the ICCPR they have undertaken to uphold Article 19 of the covenant which states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression.

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: + 98 251 774 2228 (mark "FAO the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei")
Email: info@leader.ir
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: Please send emails via the feedback form on the Persian site of the website
<http://www.iranjudiciary.org/contactus-feedback-fa.html>

The text of the feedback form translates as:

1st line: name, 2nd line: email address, 3rd line: subject heading;
then enter your email into the text box

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

via website: www.president.ir/email

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 August 2006.