

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/017/2003

UA 203/03

Fear for safety/Incommunicado detention/  
Fear of torture and ill-treatment

10 July 2003

IRAN

Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi (m), aged 67, retired army officer

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi, who is reportedly being held in incommunicado detention at an unknown location, where he may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi left his home in Tehran on 13 June between 5pm and 6pm and did not return.

On 14 June, Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi's family received a phone call from an unknown person who claimed he had gone on holiday. Four days later, Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi called briefly and told his wife that he was "somewhere" and that he had "to solve some issues".

On 21 June, the family home was searched by police who reportedly confiscated photos, personal documents and a computer. On the same day, judicial officials told his family that Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi, who reportedly has no political affiliation, was in detention.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Thousands of people have been arrested since a countrywide unrest began on 11 June. On 9 July the brother of President Mohammad Khatami, Mohammad Reza Khatami, a leading reformer and member of parliament alleged in an open letter to the President that some of those arrested during the unrest had been forced to make confessions which were then published in media close to the judiciary. The letter also said "According to the constitution, torturing people to obtain confessions is forbidden and such confessions are not credible...Unfortunately, in recent years there have been many cases of people being kept in solitary confinement...and their families subjected to pressure and threats."

On 11 June, around 80 students living in student dormitories in the Amir Abad area of Tehran demonstrated against draft proposals to privatize universities in Iran. They were joined by local residents and the demonstration reportedly escalated and became increasingly politicized, with slogans being chanted against political leaders. Plain clothed militant supporters of religious leaders opposed to social and political reform reportedly began to attack the demonstrators and police rapidly intervened to end the clashes. As the demonstrations grew over the following nights, Tehran's Special Forces (*Nirou-ye Vajeh*) were deployed to disperse demonstrators. There were reports, however, that the Special Forces permitted some plain clothed militants to attack peaceful demonstrators and that in certain instances, excessive force may have been used to break up the demonstrations.

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

- seeking clarification of the whereabouts and legal status of Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi;
- seeking assurances that Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi will be humanely treated;
- calling for Asghar Mazaheri Kalahroudi to be granted immediate access to a lawyer, his family and any medical treatment he might need;
- reminding the authorities that confessions extracted under duress are prohibited by Iranian law and a violation of Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party. It states that "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment."
- calling for all those found responsible of torture of prisoners to be brought to justice in fair trial.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei,  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** webmaster@wilayah.org (email address currently unreliable but try to resend if returned; 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:** His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** khatami@president.ir (please resend your message if it does not get through the first time)

**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 the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 879 6671 (please keep trying; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 390 1999 (please keep trying; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

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 21 August 2003.