

PUBLIC

AI Index: 13/27/00

6 September 2000

Further information on UA 182/00 (MDE 13/13/00, 27 June 2000) Fear of ill-treatment / Prisoners of conscience

IRANEzzatollah Sahabi, journalist (m), 70  
Khalil Rostamkhani, translator (m), 47

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Prisoner of conscience Ezzatollah Sahabi has been released on bail, while Khalil Rostamkhani remains in detention.

Ezzatollah Sahabi, managing editor of the now banned journal *Iran-e Farda* (The Iran of Tomorrow), was released on 21 August, pending trial. His bail was reportedly set at 500 million rials (approximately US\$289,000). Ezzatollah Sahabi had been detained at Evin prison since he was arrested on 26 June for participating in a Berlin conference in April, debating political and social reform in Iran. The Iranian authorities reportedly considered the conference to be "harmful to national security".

Prisoner of conscience Khalil Rostamkhani, who was arrested on 8 May for providing translation services at the conference, is still detained at Evin prison. His mother and son have reportedly been allowed to visit him, although on an irregular basis. He has also been provided with a lawyer, although it is unclear if this was someone of his own choosing.

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

- urging the authorities to release Khalil Rostamkhani immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience;
- asking why Khalil Rostamkhani is still in custody, and what charges he and Ezzatollah Sahabi face;
- seeking assurances that Khalil Rostamkhani will be granted regular access to his family;
- seeking assurances that the lawyer provided by the court was of Khalil Rostamkhani's own choosing.

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

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

**Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Head of Judiciary

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

**Telegrams: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

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

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far  
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission  
PO Box 13165-137, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax: + 98 21 204 0541**

**COPIES TO:** 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 18 October 2000.