

PUBLIC

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To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / Middle East Program
Date: 10 November 2000

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Ill-health Mahmood Salehi
Iran**

Key words ill-health / lack of medical care

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Mahmood Salehi, a 38-year-old trade unionist and political prisoner in Iran, is seriously ill and has not received medical care. Mahmood Salehi reportedly has developed problems in his one remaining kidney.

Mahmood Salehi, born in 1962, is the President of the Baker's Union in the city of Saqqez. He was arrested at the end of August and sentenced to ten month's imprisonment. He reportedly was convicted for his efforts to organise workers and defend worker's rights and is reportedly being held at Saqqez City prison. According to reports Mahmood Salehi has been imprisoned on four previous occasions for political reasons - in 1983, 1985, 1995 and in 1999. Mahmood Salehi is married with two children aged 9 and 11.

At the end of October, Mahmood Salehi reportedly started to have problems in his one remaining kidney. When his wife visited him, two people had to carry him to see her. His wife asked the prison governor to allow her husband to have medical treatment, but this apparently was refused.

Amnesty International does not have further details of his condition, but believes the reports to be credible and has serious concerns given the nature of his disease.

Recommended actions

- introducing yourself as a concerned health professional;
- expressing concern at reports of ill-health of Mahmood Salehi, in particular reports of serious kidney disease;
- seeking information about the diagnosis and current health of Mahmood Salehi, reportedly imprisoned in Saqqez City prison;
- seeking information about the medical services available in the prison;
- urging that Mahmood Salehi is provided with adequate medical care according to his needs as provided for by international human rights standards such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners [Article 22].

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 10 January, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Addresses

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

Minister of Health

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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

Please send copies to the Iranian embassy in your country. Please also send copies to:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue
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