

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/27/99

18 November 1999

Further information on UA 141/99 (MDE 13/13/99, 22 June 1999) and follow-up (MDE 13/20/99, 20 July 1999) - Fear for safety / Torture

IRAN Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, age 39, journalist
 Hossein Kashani, journalist

 Mohammad Massod Salamati
 Seyed Djavad Emami
 Parviz Safari

Amnesty International has just learned of the release from detention of Hossein Kashani, the Director of the newsletter ~~Hayat-e-Kish~~ (Our Identity), in July 1999, and Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, who was released on bail on 5 November.

Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, speaking after his release in an interview with Radio Voice of Iran, USA, reportedly said "I would like to express my gratitude to all the International Organizations that my prosecutor was showing me their faxes and communiqués asking what really I am to have such support."

During his imprisonment he was reportedly tortured and denied access to his family and to legal representation. He must now return to court to respond to further charges of publishing articles contrary to public order.

Both men were arrested in June for publishing "deceitful and offensive" articles contrary to "public order and the public interest". Amnesty International does not know whether there has been any official confirmation of the charges brought against them. Hossein Kashani has not returned to journalism for the time being.

The organization is now trying to get more information about Mohammad Massod Salamati, Seyed Djavad Emami and Parviz Safari, associates of Heshmatollah Tabarzadi and Hossein Kashani, arrested in July.

No further action is required by the UA network at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.