

URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER AND ACTIVIST RE-ARRESTED IN IRAN

Hossein Ronaghi Maleki and Navid Khanjani were re-arrested on 22 August 2012 after security forces reportedly attacked a relief camp for earthquake victims in the East Azerbaijan province. Both men are being held in an unknown location.

On 22 August 2012 police and plain-clothed security forces reportedly attacked a relief camp offering supplies for earthquake victims and arrested blogger, **Hossein Ronaghi Maleki** and human rights activist, **Navid Khanjani**, along with dozens of other volunteer relief workers and activists. After the arrests, the security forces shut down the camp. According to reports, the arrests happened at 11pm and the detainees were blindfolded and taken to the Tabriz Ministry of Intelligence facility for questioning.

On 24 August, Hossein Ronaghi Maleki was transferred from the Ministry of Intelligence facility to Section 1 of Tabriz Prison. He has been charged with "distributing unclean and non-hygienic goods" and is reported to have been tortured during questioning. He was reportedly beaten so severely in the kidney area that the wound from a recent surgery haemorrhaged. Despite this, he has been refused medical care and has not been allowed to take his medicine. There is great concern that Hossein Ronaghi Maleki's physical health is now rapidly deteriorating. .

Navid Khanjani had been awaiting a summons to start serving a 12-year sentence after an unfair trial, when he was also arrested at the relief camp. He was also transferred to Section 1 of Tabriz Prison and charged with "distributing unclean and non-hygienic goods".

Although most of those arrested have now been released, Hossein Ronaghi Maleki and Navid Khanjani are among those still detained and have both been on a dry hunger strike since 25 August in protest against their arrest and detention. On the afternoon of 25 August both men were taken by Ministry of Intelligence security officers from Tabriz Prison to an unknown location and have not been heard from since.

Please write immediately in Persian, Arabic, English or your own language:

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Hossein Ronaghi Maleki and Navid Khanjani as they are being held solely for their activism and humanitarian work;
- Calling on the Iranian authorities to reveal their whereabouts, to ensure they are protected from torture and other ill treatment, and that they are allowed access to their families and lawyers of their choosing
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Hossein Ronaghi Maleki receives all adequate medical attention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 OCTOBER 2012 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir
Twitter:
@khamenei_ir #freemaleki #freekhanjani

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
[care of] Public Relations Office
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street
Vali Asr Ave, above Pasteur Street
intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@dadiran.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Secretary General High Council for
Human Rights
Mohammed Javad Larijani
c/o Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave
South of Serah-e Jomhouri
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@humanrights-iran.ir
(Subject line: FAO Mohammad Javad
Larijani)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Authorities in Iran have stressed that aid must be handed to officials responsible for the distribution of relief supplies in the areas affected by the East Azerbaijan earthquakes. However, many volunteers from Tehran and other cities have taken to coordinating their own relief efforts for the victims of the earthquakes because of a lack of trust in the way Iranian authorities have handled relief operations.

After their arrest, all the detainees went on a dry hunger strike and sent an open letter addressed to the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani, stressing that their presence in the East Azerbaijan province was solely to provide and distribute relief supplies to earthquake victims.

Prior to his recent arrest on 22 August 2012, Hossein Ronaghi Maleki had been released on 2 July after payment of bail of 10 billion Rials (approximately US\$815,000). He had been sentenced to 15 years in prison after an unfair trial in 2010 on charges including "membership of the [illegal] internet group 'Iran Proxy'", "spreading propaganda against the system" and "insulting the Leader and the President", apparently in connection with articles he posted on his blog, 14 Tir. He returned to his blog on 5 July 2012, and wrote, "After 32 months of not writing on my blog, I have come today . . . pen in hand and write to say that I am feeling well because my mother's face is fresh [with happiness] and she does not cry".

Before his arrest on 22 August 2012, Navid Khanjani was at liberty awaiting a summons to start serving a 12-year prison sentence. He was a member of both the Committee for Human Rights Reporters (CHRR) and the Association to Oppose Discrimination in Education (AODE) and was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment on 31 January 2011. His sentence was upheld on appeal and confirmed by Branch 54 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on 10 August 2011. His lawyer was only informed 14 days later.

Navid Khanjani had been arrested in Esfahan on 2 March 2010. He faced an unfair trial on 20 December 2010 in Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court. He was apparently sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in connection with his work with the AODE; and five for his work with the CHRR. An additional three years were said to have been handed down for "creating unease in the public mind", and "propaganda against the system". Navid Khanjani was eventually sentenced to 12 years imprisonment after the court supposedly applied "Islamic mercy".

Torture and other ill-treatment is common in Iran, particularly during interrogation when detainees are routinely denied access to a lawyer and are often held incommunicado.

For further information, see *From Protest to Prison: Iran One Year after the Election*, Index MDE 13/062/2010, June 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/062/2010/en> and *Iran: Election Contested, Repression Compounded*, Index MDE 13/123/2009, December 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/123/2009/en>

Name: Hossein Ronaghi Maleki and Navid Khanjani

Gender m/f: Both m

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