

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/066/2005

04 November 2005

**Further Information on UA 113/05 (MDE 13/021/2005, 6 May 2005) and follow-ups (MDE 13/027/2005, 15 June 2005; MDE 13/033/2005, 12 July 2005) - Fear for safety / Medical concern/prisoner of conscience**

IRAN

**Nasser Zarafshan (m), lawyer and human rights defender**

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Prisoner of conscience Nasser Zarafshan's health is deteriorating, as he is not being allowed the specialist medical care that he needs. He is in solitary confinement in Evin prison, and is not allowed out for exercise.

On 10 September he underwent a medical examination in the prison, followed by another one in Labbafinejad Hospital in Tehran, both of which concluded that he still had stones in his right kidney. The doctor who treated him reportedly certified that Nasser Zarafshan needed to undergo further treatment for these kidney stones. According to one of his lawyers his family have submitted all the necessary documents for him to be granted access to further specialist treatment, but the authorities have taken no action.

His wife is reportedly allowed to visit him once a week and his lawyers more often. The family's visits are made difficult by the prison authorities: they have to apply for permission each time they want to visit him, and the bureaucratic process is long and cumbersome. They are not allowed to bring him clothes, food, or basic sanitary articles such as toothpaste and soap.

Nasser Zarafshan suffers from a chronic kidney condition which, according to the medical team at Evin prison, requires specialist treatment outside the prison. On 7 June he began a hunger strike in protest at being denied medical treatment, and on around 19 June he was taken to Labbafinejad Hospital. However, due to his low blood pressure he could not be operated on and he was returned to Evin prison. On 21 June, while being transferred to solitary confinement, apparently as punishment for going on hunger strike, he lost consciousness. He was immediately returned to Labbafinejad Hospital where he underwent an operation on one of his kidneys.

He was granted medical leave from prison on or around 4 July to allow him to recuperate from the surgery, and for treatment of his kidney stones. He returned to the prison on 23 July. He is held in wing 325, with other political prisoners.

Nasser Zarafshan was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in March 2002, after a secret trial before a military court. He was imprisoned for his role in representing the families of two political activists murdered in November 1998 during a series of killings which came to be known in Iran as the "serial murders".

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

- expressing concern that Nasser Zarafshan's health is deteriorating, and pointing out that doctors have certified that he needs specialist treatment for his longstanding kidney problem;
- urging the judicial authorities to grant him immediate and unconditional access to the medical treatment that he needs;

- stating that Amnesty International considers Nasser Zarafshan to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs;
- expressing concern that Nasser Zarafshan was convicted after an unfair trial on politically motivated charges aimed at preventing him from carrying out his legitimate work as a lawyer, and calling for him to be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO: (It may be difficult to get through to Iranian fax numbers, but please keep trying)**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 6649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei')

**Email:** info@leader.ir

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinezhad

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** <http://www.president.ir/email/>

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (mark 'Please forward to HE Ayatollah Shahroudi')

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**

Speaker of Parliament

Gholamali Haddad Adel

Majles-e Shoura-ye Eslami (Parliament)

Imam Khomeini Avenue,

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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Head of the Expediency Council

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

**Email:** info@hashemirafsanjani.ir

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

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 16 December 2005.