

URGENT ACTION

IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER REARRESTED

Human rights defender and 2009 recipient of the Martin Ennals Award Emadeddin Baghi was arrested on 28 December 2009, in the aftermath of demonstrations marking a religious event known as 'Ashoura the day before. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Emadeddin Baghi was arrested at his house at 6.45am on 28 December 2009 by four plainclothes, armed officials, who forced their way into his house, and, refusing to show any identification, severely beat his brother-in-law and, when Emadeddin Baghi assured his wife and daughter that he would remain strong in prison, told him he would not live long enough in prison to need to remain strong.

The authorities have given his family no information about what has happened, and have not allowed his lawyers to contact him. On 6 January, a family member reported that a detainee just released from Evin Prison in Tehran told the family that he had heard Emadeddin Baghi's voice in the prison. He has seriously medical problems, many resulting from his previous periods of imprisonment,

Emadeddin Baghi is believed to be held in solitary confinement in Evin prison. His doctor has asked the authorities not to put him under pressure, so as to prevent his various health problems from worsening.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Persian, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to release Emadeddin Baghi immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience;
- Urging them to disclose his whereabouts immediately, and to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and has access to a lawyer of his own choosing, his family and any medical treatment he may require;
- Reminding the authorities that, as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran is obliged to uphold the right to freedom of expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 FEBRUARY 2010 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

via website:

[http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?](http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter)

p=letter (English)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of Tehran Judiciary

Mr Ali Reza Avaei

Karimkhan Zand Avenue

Sana'i Avenue, Corner of Alley 17, No

152

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: avaei@Dadgostary-tehran.ir

Salutation: Dear Mr Avaei

And copies to:

Director, Human Rights Headquarters
of Iran

His Excellency Mohammad Javad
Larijani

Bureau of International Affairs, Office
of the Head of the Judiciary, Pasteur

St., Vali Asr Ave. south of Serah-e
Jomhuri, Tehran 1316814737,

Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: bia.judi@yahoo.com

Fax: +98 21 5 537 8827 (please keep
trying)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Emadeddin Baghi is a distinguished human rights defender, journalist and writer who has been imprisoned repeatedly. He is the founder of the Association for the Defence of Prisoners' Rights (ADPR) which the authorities closed down in August 2009, amid widespread allegations that the security forces had committed numerous human rights violations since the June 2009 presidential election. Since it was set up 2002, the organization had been compiling information on torture and other abuses against detainees.

In October 2008, he was released from Evin Prison after serving a one-year sentence for "undermining national security," which had been imposed unfairly in 2003 after he criticized the use of the death penalty.

While in custody, he was not allowed to go to the toilet for four days and prison officials delayed urgently needed medical treatment. He was eventually granted medical leave, but he still suffers from kidney, bladder and other problems arising from the treatment he suffered. He and members of his family were cleared by an appeal court of further charges related to their human rights work, but the case was referred to another court for further investigation.

Other human rights defenders have also been arrested in recent weeks, including seven members of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, Saeed Kalanaki, Saeed Jalalifar, Shiva Nazar Ahari, Koohyar Goodarzi, Saeed Haeri, Parisa Kakayi and Mehrdad Rahimi

Others arrested on 28 December 2009 included former foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi, 78, a leading member of the Iran Freedom Movement; and advisers to former president Mohammad Khatami and June 2009 presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi. According to the *Parleman* news website, Morteza Haji and Hasan Rasoulid, who administer former President Khatami's NGO, *Baran*, were arrested; along with Mousavi's advisers Alireza Beheshti, Ghorban Behzadian-Nejad and Mohammad Bagherian.

At least six leading journalists were also arrested on 28 and 29 December. Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, Morteza Kazemian, Keyvan Mehregan, Reza Tajik, and two women, Badrolsadat Mofidi and Nasrin Vaziri, are among many others detained following the 'Ashoura commemoration.

Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, the former Vice President of the Association of Iranian Journalists (officially shut down in 2008) was arrested on 29 December when six plainclothes security officials forced their way into his home. He demanded to see a warrant for his arrest, but was threatened and taken away to an unknown place of detention. Morteza Kazemian, said to be a contributor to the *Jaras* news website, close to Mir Hossein Mousavi, was arrested at around 1am on 29 December. Reza Tajik, a journalist with the daily newspaper *Etemad*, was arrested in front of the newspaper's offices at around 2.15pm on 29 December by officials of the Ministry of Intelligence. He had previously been held for some 46 days following the election. Badrolsadat Mofidi is the Secretary of the Association of Iranian Journalists while Nasrin Vaziri is the parliamentary correspondent for the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) news and Khabar Online.

For further information about the post-election events please see Iran: Election contested, Repression compounded (Index MDE 13/123/2009), December 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/123/2009/en>

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