

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE/ 13/008/2003

11 March 2003

Further Information on UA 334/02 (MDE 13/023/2002; 11 November 2002) and follow up (MDE 13/004/2003; 20 February 2003) Fear for safety/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAN      **Abbas Abdi (m), journalist**  
**Dr Hossein Ghaziyan (m), university lecturer and Director of the Ayandeh Research Group (polling institute)**  
**Mohsen Goudarzi (m), Director of the National Plan for assessing Iranians' Opinions and Values**

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Amnesty International fears that Abbas Abdi may be at risk of ill treatment as he has reportedly been moved into incommunicado detention for renewed questioning. He was previously held incommunicado detention for an indeterminate amount of time until his transfer to an open, public section of Evin prison on or around 10 January 2003.

According to a report issued on 11 March 2003 by the Amir Kabir University Newsletter, published on the internet (<http://www.akunews.org>) by the university's Islamic Association of Students (*Anjoman-e Eslami-ye Daneshjouyan*), Abbas Abdi's daughter, Maryam Abdi, stated that her father has been moved into incommunicado detention and that all contact with him has been cut. The last contact with her father was over 15 days ago, when he was in good health.

According to Maryam Abdi, her father has recently been suffering from severe pain to one of his feet and made repeated requests to be permitted to be examined by a doctor. In his last meeting with his family, Abbas Abdi reportedly stated that if he were removed to incommunicado detention again, that he would go on hunger strike, which has increased the family's fears over his condition.

According to the Amir Kabir University Newsletter report, Abbas Abdi's lawyer has prepared an appeal against the sentence of eight years imprisonment handed down in January 2003. Reports indicate, however, that his lawyer was not permitted to be present at the interrogation of his client and was not provided transcripts afterwards. In addition, an interrogator was present at their last meeting despite repeated assertions by the lawyer that it should take place in private. Abbas Abdi's lawyer has not been permitted access to his client and no information concerning his condition has been made available by Evin prison's authorities, in violation of Article 10 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that those deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity.

It is believed that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan remains in detention following his sentencing. Amnesty International has no further information concerning Mohsen Goudarzi.

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

- seeking assurances that Abbas Abdi is not facing ill treatment or torture while in detention;
- reminding the authorities that torture and ill treatment are prohibited under Article 7 of the ICCPR, to which Iran is a state party. It states: No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations under Article 10 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that those deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity.
- urging the judicial authorities to grant Abbas Abdi full access to his lawyer, in accordance with Iran's Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 35 of Iran's Constitution;

- seeking clarification of the status of Mohsen Goudarzi, and calling on the authorities to guarantee his safety if he is in detention and urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release him unless he is to be charged with an internationally recognized criminal offence;

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei,  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** [webmaster@wilayah.org](mailto:webmaster@wilayah.org) (on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** [khatami@president.ir](mailto:khatami@president.ir) (please resend your message if it does not get through the first time)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi  
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes:** + 98 21 879 6671 (unreliable; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

**Email:** [Irjpr@iranjudiciary.com](mailto:Irjpr@iranjudiciary.com) (Public Relations Office of Judiciary; please mark for the attention of HE Ayatollah Shahroudi)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes:** + 98 21 390 1999 (unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Parliamentary Committee

Chairperson, Article 90 Commission (Komisyon-e Asl-e Navad), Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami,  
Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams:** Majles, Tehran or Telex: 21 42 32 ICAI IR

**Faxes:** + 98 21 646 1746 (Can be difficult to reach, please be patient)

Islamic Human Rights Commission

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far  
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission  
PO Box 13165-137, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes:** + 98 21 204 0541

**COPIES 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 22 April 2003.