

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 248/90 (MDE 13/10/90, 15 June 1990) and follow-ups MDE 13/10/90, (27 June 1990), MDE 13/12/90, (13 July 1990), MDE 13/02/91, (18 January 1991), MDE 13/07/91, (29 April 1991) and MDE 13/08/91 (23 July 1991) - Prisoners of Conscience/Fear of Torture/Unfair Trial and HEALTH CONCERN (new concern) :

IRAN: Ali Ardalan

and	Dr Habibollah Davaran	Mohammad Tavassoli Hojati
	Abdolali Bazargan	Hashem Sabbaghian
	Khosrow Mansourian	Nezameddin Movahed
	Akbar Zarinehbaf	Abol Fazl Mir Shams Shahshahani

Amnesty International is concerned at reports of recent developments regarding the situation of Ali Ardalan. He is one of nine prisoners of conscience, arrested in June 1990 in connection with a critical open letter addressed to President Rafsanjani, who were recently brought to trial. Although the prisoners have not been informed of the outcome of their trial, reports indicate that Ali Ardalan, who is in his mid-seventies, has received a three-year prison sentence, which would begin on the date of the court judgment rather than the date of arrest.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the prisoners were required to sign statements condemning their past activities at the end of their trial. Ali Ardalan apparently refused to do this. Subsequently he was transferred to the Joint Committee building in Tupkhaneh Square, central Tehran, where he is believed to be held in isolation and in poor conditions. There are fears once again for his health, in view of Ali Ardalan's age and history of cardiac problems.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- urging that Ali Ardalan is given immediate and regular access to adequate medical care;
- seeking clarification of the trial procedures and whether the nine prisoners named above had access to lawyers for their defence, and the exact charges levelled against them.
- expressing concern at the continuing imprisonment of Ali Ardalan and the eight other prisoners tried with him and urging their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1.

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
 Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
[Salutation: Your Excellency]
 The Presidency
 Palestine Avenue
 Azerbaijan Intersection
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)

2.

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
[Salutation: Your Excellency]
 Head of the Judiciary
 Ministry of Justice
 Park-e Shahr
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for attention Head of the Judiciary)

3.

Hojatoleslam Ali Fallahian
[Salutation: Dear Minister]
 Minister of Information
 Ministry of Information
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 EXT IR; 212600 EXT IR; 214242 EXT IR
(please forward to the Minister of Information)

COPIES TO:

H E Ali Akbar Velayati
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Sheikh Abdolmajid Avenue
 Kooshk-e Mesri
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
 or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 October 1991.