

UA 123/99

Possible**IRANManuchehr Mohammadi**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Manuchehr Mohammadi, an Iranian student activist, and other members of the National Union of Students (*Ettahadiyeh-e Daneshjuyan-e Melli*). According to eye-witness reports, Manuchehr Mohammadi was attacked by five unknown men at 12.30 pm on 25 May 1999 in Tehran, beaten, and driven off in a car. There has been no news of him since. He had been scheduled to speak at a protest rally that day at Tehran University, organised by the National Union of Students and other student groups.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 students attended the rally, calling for the release of Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Kadivar and 'Abbas Amir Entezam, both regarded by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience (see News Service 075/99, AI Index MDE 13/06/99, and News Service 186/98, AI Index MDE 13/16/98). Soon after the rally began, the students were reportedly attacked with sticks and knives by around 50 members of *Ansar-e Hezbollah* (Helpers of Hezbollah), a vigilante student group opposed to current political developments in Iran. Members of the security forces on the scene reportedly did not intervene to protect the students attending the rally; other reports suggest that some members of the security forces assisted *Ansar-e Hezbollah* in attacking the students. A number of those attending the rally were reportedly injured, some seriously.

Several people who attended the rally are now believed to be in hiding and are said to be in fear for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months there have been several clashes between student organizations supporting different political tendencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the days leading up to the rally on 25 May, members of *Ansar-e Hezbollah* had reportedly issued threats both against Manuchehr Mohammadi and against the National Union of Students as a whole.

Amnesty International's fears for the safety of Manuchehr Mohammadi are heightened by the fact that three writers, Majid Sharif, Mohammad Mokhtari and Mohammad Ja'far Pouyandeh, who "disappeared" in Iran between 20 November and 9 December 1998 were later found murdered (see News Service 244/98, AI Index MDE 13/25/98 and UA 310/98, MDE 13/26/98)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or own language or your own language:

- seeking urgent clarification from the authorities of the whereabouts and well-being of Manuchehr Mohammadi;
- urging the authorities to take concrete measures to guarantee the security of all other student activists currently believed to be at risk;
- urging the authorities to bring to justice anyone found responsible for assaulting and abducting Manuchehr Mohammadi;
- reminding the government of Iran of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

APPEALS TO:

1)Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

2)President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

3)Head of Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi

Ministry of Justice

Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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

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 7 July 1999.