

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 398/94 (MDE 13/10/94) - Fear of torture

IRAN Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi, aged 73
 Mehrdad Amir Rahimi, aged 28, his son, student

Fears for the safety of Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi have been greatly heightened by the death in custody on 27 November 1994 of another critic of the Iranian government accused of similar offences.

On 27 November the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani, a well-known writer held incommunicado since his arrest on 14 March, had died of a heart attack in an unspecified Tehran hospital (see UA 168/94, MDE 13/03/94, 28 April 1994 and follow-up MDE 13/13/94, 28 November). Amnesty International is gravely concerned by his death.

Although both were accused of various offences, including drug abuse, the real reason for the arrests and detention of both Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi and Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani is believed to have been their open criticisms of the Iranian government.

Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi is reportedly being held at the Air Force hospital. Amnesty International fears for his life as long as he remains in incommunicado detention.

There is no further information on the detention of the Retired General's son, Mehrdad Amir Rahimi, who was arrested on 8 November after protesting about his father's arrest, and giving interviews to foreign media about it. His whereabouts in custody remain unknown, and fears for his safety continue.

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

- reiterating concern for the safety of Azizollah Amir Rahimi, currently detained at the Air Force Hospital, and his son Mehrdad, calling for the latter's whereabouts to be made known, and for them both to be given immediate access to a lawyer of their own choosing, to family members, and to independent care;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- calling again for their immediate and unconditional release if they are being held solely for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
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)

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Ayatollah
Seyed Ali Khamanei
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
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 the attention of the Interior Minister)
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency
Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
Dr Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

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 5 January 1995.