

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/15/95

UA 221/95

Fear of "Disappearance"/  
Health Concern

15 September 1995

IRANJavad Rouhani, aged 26, and at least 25 others

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Amnesty International is concerned about the fate of Javad Rouhani, a student of biochemistry, who was reportedly arrested on 17 July 1995 when members of Iranian security forces raided his house in Qom. Since then, his family has been unable to discover his whereabouts. Amnesty International is also seeking clarification of the fate of at least 25 others reported to have been subsequently arrested in connection with the same case.

Javad Rouhani is the son of Grand Ayatollah Sadeq Rouhani. In June 1995, Grand Ayatollah Rouhani reportedly wrote an open letter to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in which he criticised restrictions on religious rites, arrests and imprisonment of people, forcible exile, beatings and reported killings.

He complained that he had been held under house arrest for more than 10 years, and complained of insults which he said had been directed against high-ranking religious figures and which had been broadcast by the state-controlled media.

Amnesty International is seeking clarification of Grand Ayatollah Rouhani's statement that he has been kept under house arrest, including the reason for any such restriction.

On 17 July, security forces reportedly entered the house of Grand Ayatollah Rouhani in Qom, removed some papers and arrested his son Javad. Javad Rouhani is apparently in poor health from an earlier car accident.

At least 25 supporters of Grand Ayatollah Rouhani were reportedly arrested on 1 August 1995, when they gathered outside his house to protest against the reported persecution of him and his family. Amnesty International is concerned that Javad Rouhani and perhaps those arrested during the incident may be held in incommunicado detention and that those detained may have been arrested solely for the non-violent expression of beliefs and as such would be prisoners of conscience.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express/airmail letters in English, French or your own language:**

- asking for information about the current whereabouts of Javad Rouhani and anyone else who may be detained in connection with this case, urging that their families be informed immediately and that they should be granted access to lawyers and doctors of their choice, and to a judicial review of their detention;
- seeking information about the legal status of anyone detained in connection with this case, including any charges brought against them, dates of any trial hearings and any verdicts issued;
- seeking assurances that anyone so detained is being treated humanely and that they are receiving all appropriate medical care.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Leader of the Islamic Republic  
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamanei  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran**

**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR (marked for the attention of Ayatollah Khamanei)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran

The Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran**

**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR (marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi

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 Justice Ministry)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of the Interior

His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi  
Ministry of the 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 TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee  
Imam Khomeini 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 27 October 1995.