

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/018/2004

22 March 2004

**Further Information on UA 87/04 (MDE 13/016/2004, 27 February 2004) Fear for safety/ Fear of torture or ill-treatment and new concern: Medical concern**

IRAN

Arzhang Davoodi (m), aged 46

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Arzhang Davoodi remains in prison, although his family have paid bail, and is reportedly suffering from severe health problems as a result of torture and ill-treatment, for which he is being denied necessary medical treatment.

Arzhang Davoodi's family recently paid bail of 50 million Tomans (US\$59,380, at the official rate) in the form of property deeds (the normal practice in Iran), as requested by the Iranian authorities, to secure his release. However, the authorities have reportedly refused to release him on the grounds that his file is "not complete".

According to an 18 March report on the Iranian internet news site *Peyk-e Iran*, Arzhang Davoodi was severely tortured and kept in solitary confinement for 100 days while he was held in Band 325, a detention facility run by the Revolutionary Guard. During the winter, for several days he was kept in a room with the air conditioning turned on all night, making the room even colder. The torture and ill-treatment has left him with a broken shoulder blade, bleeding in his left eye, deafness, a broken jaw and broken teeth. A doctor reportedly assessed that Arzhang Davoodi required treatment of his eyes, ears and teeth, and physiotherapy for his shoulder. The authorities have allegedly provided him with no treatment whatsoever.

On 17 March Arzhang Davoodi was transferred from Salon 1 of Evin prison, where he had been detained since his transfer from Band 325 in early March, to Salon 8 of Evin prison. Salon 8 is a section of the prison used for people detained for financial offences, and has no medical facilities. It is allegedly extremely dusty, which has caused Arzhang to suffer from asthma symptoms. According to his family, prison officials will not grant him leave to obtain the medical treatment he requires. Amnesty International fears that he has been transferred to Salon 8 to put him under increased pressure, by preventing him from getting access to medical treatment.

Arzhang Davoodi has been allowed to make phone calls to his lawyer, and has been able to meet with him on one occasion. However, his lawyer has not been able to have a copy of the file on his client. Under Iranian law, a lawyer is not entitled to access to his client's file until formal charges have been brought. Amnesty International is not aware of whether Arzhang Davoodi has been formally charged.

Arzhang Davoodi was arrested between August and October 2003. He had assisted in the making of a television documentary about Iran, filmed secretly and illegally, which was widely broadcast in northern Europe in December 2003, and in North America in January 2004. He was interviewed in the documentary, and spoke about political prisoners, and the death in custody of Canadian-Iranian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi.

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

- respectfully asking why Arzhang Davoodi is still in prison despite the payment of bail;
- expressing concern for his safety and well being, as he has reportedly been tortured and ill-treated;
- seeking assurances that he will be humanely treated while he is in detention, and given immediate and unconditional access to any medical treatment he may require;

- reminding the authorities that confessions extracted under duress are prohibited by Iranian law, and are a violation of Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, which states that "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment";
- calling for all those found responsible for torture of prisoners to be brought to justice in fair trials;
- asking for details of the charges against Arzhang Davoodi;
- reminding the authorities of their responsibility under Article 9(2) of the ICCPR to inform anyone arrested of the reasons for doing so at the time of their arrest, and to promptly inform them of any charges against them.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams:** Leader of Islamic Republic, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes:** + 98 21 649 5880 / 21 774 2228 (ask fax to be forwarded to Ayatollah Khamenei)

**Email:** 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

**Telegram:** President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 649 5880

**Email:** khatami@president.ir

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

##### Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

#### **COPIES TO:**

##### Islamic Human Rights Commission

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far

Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission

PO Box 13165-137, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 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 31 April 2004.