

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/19/98

21 October 1998

Further information on UA 254/98 (MDE 13/14/98, 22 September 1998) - Fear of death penalty / Prisoners of conscience and new concern: Fear of Torture / Health concerns

IRAN Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin
Hamid Reza Jalaipour
Mohammad Javadi Hessar
Ibrahim Nabavi

Hamid Reza Jalaipour, one of four journalists arrested on 16 September 1998, following the banning of the daily newspaper *Tous*, was released from custody on 13 October, pending further investigation of the charges against him.

Amnesty International continues to fear, however, for the well-being of Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin, Mohammad Javadi Hessar and Ibrahim Nabavi, who remain in detention. Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin and Ibrahim Nabavi are reportedly in poor health as a result of the harsh conditions of their detention, which amounts to possible ill-treatment and torture. Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin is believed to have developed kidney problems and Ibrahim Nabavi has nervous problems of an unspecified nature.

In a press statement given after his release, Hamid Reza Jalaipour reportedly stated that he and his colleagues had been held in solitary confinement and had been subjected to "indirect psychological torture".

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

- welcoming the release of Hamid Reza Jalaipour but seeking assurances that Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin, Mohammad Javadi Hessar and Ibrahim Nabavi are being treated humanely in custody;
- expressing concern that Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin and Ibrahim Nabavi are reported to be in poor health as a result of the harsh conditions of their detention;
- seeking urgent clarification of the exact offences with which the men are charged;
- requesting that the men be granted immediate access to their families, to a lawyer of their choice, and to any medical attention they require;
- asking for their immediate and unconditional release, and the dropping of any charges against them, if it is for reasons of their non-violent activities;
- reminding the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

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: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 650203 (via Interior Ministry, ask for fax to be forwarded)

Salutation: Your Excellency

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
Faxes: + 98 21 311 6276 (via Foreign Affairs, ask for fax to be forwarded)
Salutation: Your Excellency

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
Faxes: + 98 21 311 6276

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
PO Box 13165-137
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 8 December 1998.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"
Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>