

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 13/020/2004**

**26 March 2004**

**Further Information on UA 181/03 (MDE 13/015/2003, 20 June 2003) and follow-up (MDE 13/021/2003, 15 July 2003) - Torture/ill-treatment/Fear for safety/Medical concern**

**IRAN**                      **Manuchehr Mohammadi (m), aged 36, student activist and political prisoner**  
**Simin Mohammadi (f), aged 26, student (his sister)**

**New name: Akbar Mohammadi (m), aged 34, student activist (their brother)**

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It is now known that Simin Mohammadi was released on 22 July 2003, following a bail payment of 10 million Tomans (approx. US\$12,000 at the official rate) in the form of property deeds. Her brother Manuchehr's prison sentence has been extended to nine years, and he has been flogged. Their brother Akbar is also in prison, where he has been denied urgent medical treatment.

Simin was arrested with her father Mohammad on 8 July 2003. She reportedly spent most of her two weeks' imprisonment in solitary confinement, and was in a prison hospital for about four days with breathing problems. She was allegedly beaten following her arrest. During interrogation she was threatened with further beatings, and told that she could be killed. A date has not been set for her trial, and the exact charges she faces are not known, but she is believed to have been accused of committing "acts against state security". Her father, who was released on bail after he had a heart attack while in solitary confinement, will be in court with her, facing the same accusations.

Simin's brother, student activist Manuchehr Mohammadi, was arrested on 13 July 1999, in connection with his participation in large student demonstrations against press laws limiting freedom of expression. His brother Akbar was also arrested in the course of the same events. Akbar Mohammadi was initially sentenced to death, but this was reduced on appeal to 15 years' imprisonment, which he is now serving in Evin prison. He is reported to be suffering from serious health problems for which he has been denied medical treatment.

At the end of November 2003, Akbar Mohammadi was taken to the Taleghani hospital in Tehran suffering from internal bleeding, and was operated on. He was kept under 24-hour guard and was not allowed any visitors. A hospital doctor reportedly recommended he stay in hospital for a month, but he was transferred back to Evin prison after six days. According to his family, his health has worsened since then, as the operation on his stomach was unsuccessful. He is now reported to be extremely ill, but has not received any medical treatment. His family's repeated requests for him to be granted leave to go to hospital were reportedly denied until early March 2004, when they were told that he would be released on bail of 36 million Tomans (approx. US\$42,500). The Mohammadi family cannot afford this.

Manuchehr Mohammadi's seven-year prison sentence was extended by two years at the end of November 2003. He reportedly received one additional year for talking to foreign media while on leave from prison, and a further year for issuing political statements while in prison. While on leave between 11 and 17 June 2003, he had given telephone interviews to a radio station and a television station run by Iranians based in the United States, who are opposed to the Iranian government. On his return, he was taken to Band (or 'Section') 325, a Revolutionary Guards prison. There he was kept in solitary confinement for 37 days, and was tortured. He was chained in a crouching position with his mouth gagged, in a vermin-infested cell, and was frequently beaten. At a family visit on 5 September, shortly after he was returned to Evin prison, his mother fainted when she saw him. His face was badly bruised, he could barely walk, and said only one sentence: that he had been tortured at Band 325. At the end of October 2003 he received 30 lashes, and a fine of 30,000

Tomans (US\$36), for insulting judicial officials conducting an inspection of Evin prison. He is said to be facing other, unspecified charges.

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

- expressing concern for the health of Akbar Mohammadi, and seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely, and will be given any medical treatment he may require;
- expressing concern that Manuchehr Mohammadi reportedly had his prison term extended by two years for giving interviews while on leave and issuing political statements, which do not appear to be internationally recognisable criminal offences;
- expressing concern that he reportedly received 30 lashes for insulting an official, and stating that Amnesty International considers the punishment of flogging to constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment amounting to torture;
- welcoming the release on bail of Simin Mohammadi, and asking for details of any charges that are to be brought against her, noting that any such charges should reflect recognisably criminal offences;
- expressing concern at reports that both Akbar and Manuchehr Mohammadi have been tortured and ill-treated in detention, and reminding the authorities of their obligations as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which article 7 states: "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment";
- calling for an investigation into the allegations of torture, and for all those found responsible to be brought to justice in fair trials.

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei,  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** [webmaster@wilayah.org](mailto:webmaster@wilayah.org) (mark: For the attention of the office of His Excellency Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi  
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 879 6671 (unreliable; please mark "c/o Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

**Email:** [Irjpr@iranjudiciary.com](mailto:Irjpr@iranjudiciary.com) (unreliable; please mark "for the attention of HE Ayatollah Shahrudi")

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** [khatami@president.ir](mailto:khatami@president.ir) (please resend if it does not get through first time)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**Please copy your letter, or send a message of support, to Akbar and Manuchehr Mohammadi:**

Akbar and Manuchehr Mohammadi

Evin Prison  
Chamran Highway, Shahid Katchuyi Street  
Darakeh, Tehran, Iran

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 May 2004.