

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 13/039/2005**

**UA 194/05**

**Detention without charge/ Fear of torture or ill-treatment**

**22 July 2005**

**IRAN**

**Nasser Hamelawi (m)  
Behrouz Ahmedi (m)  
Serdar Muhammadi (m)  
Armesh Khujesteh (m)  
Afshin Khodam (m)  
Ferhad Khodam (m)  
Hiwa Mahmoudi (m)  
Kazem Nawjawani (m)  
Yussef Chapashi (m)  
Anwar Chapashi (m)  
Jaafar Jabari (m)  
Hossein Rassouli (m)  
Suleiman Aboubaqri (m)  
Nasser Azarian (m)  
Yunis Ahmazadeh (m)**

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Scores of people, including the fifteen men named above, all members of Iran's Kurdish minority, were reportedly detained without charge between 9 and 15 July, and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. The fifteen men were reportedly arrested in the city of Mahabad, North Eastern Iran, after protests about the killing of Sayed Kamal Astam, or Astom, also known as Shivan Qaderi. They are not known to have had access to legal representation, their families or medical treatment.

Shivan Qaderi was reportedly known as a leader among the Kurdish youth and had organized protests against the Iranian government during recent June Presidential elections. According to reports, on 9 July, officers from the State Security forces, along with Kurdish paramilitary village guards, shot at Shivan Qaderi and two other Kurdish men in the town of Mahabad. Shivan Qaderi may have tried to escape and was shot again. The security forces then reportedly tied his body to a Toyota jeep and dragged him in the streets to Oromieh. Shivan Qaderi was then reportedly returned to his family in a coffin. Pictures of his body have since been distributed on the world-wide web. The local Iranian authorities are reported to have confirmed that Shivan Qaderi was indeed shot and killed by security forces, allegedly while trying to escape arrest.

During the days following Shivan Qaderi's death, several thousand Mahabad residents, mainly youths, reportedly took to the streets to protest at the killing. On 15 July, the State Security forces reportedly fired live ammunition at the protestors, gravely wounding several of them including a child. Anti-government demonstrations and major unrest have also reportedly taken place in the neighbouring towns and scores of people have been arrested. On 18 July, a Law Enforcement Officer was killed in Mahabad during demonstrations that took place following the posting of the pictures of Shivan Qaderi's body on the internet.

On 19 July, the Interior Ministry sent a team of investigators to Mahabad at the request of its governor. In an article from ISNA (the Iranian Students News Agency) on that day, the governor of Mahabad said that a number of people who had participated in the recent protests have been arrested, but he did not have precise information and figures about them.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Kurds are one of Iran's many ethnic minority groups. They mainly live in the province of Kurdistan and neighbouring provinces bordering Turkey and Iraq.

On 6 July 2005, Kurdish and Sunni Members of Parliament (MPs) in a letter to president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinezhad, reportedly stressed that it is their legal duty to uphold the demands and civilian rights of Kurds and Sunnis within the framework of the constitution. The signatories noted that they consider it to be their legitimate right to call for the appointment of Kurdish and Sunni members in the new cabinet. They also urged the president-elect to refrain from national and religious prejudices and ensure civilian rights, facilitate decentralization and strive for fair distribution of power and wealth.

Scores of people are regularly arrested without charge in Iran following unrest. In April 2005, mass arrests took place after demonstrations in Khuzestan province, the city of Ahvaz and neighbouring towns. The police reportedly used excessive force, possibly including extrajudicial executions, after demonstrators allegedly killed up to seven police or security officials.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the 15 men named above and any others who may have been detained between 9 – 15 July in the city of Mahabad, North Eastern Iran;
- asking whether the 15 detainees and any others have been charged, and if so for their offences to be made public;
- calling for them to be given access to lawyers, their family, interpreters, and medical treatment if necessary;
- urging the security forces to urgently implement the standards set out in the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, in particular Principle 4, which requires the authorities to use non-violent policing methods before resorting to firearms, and Principle 9, which limits the use of firearms to specific cases of self-defence;
- calling on the authorities to set up an independent commission of inquiry to investigate both the unrest and policing methods.

**APPEALS TO: ( Please note: email addresses in Iran can be unreliable at times, please keep trying)**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

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

**Fax: + 98 21 649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei)**

**Email: info@wilayah.org**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

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

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Speaker of Parliament

Gholamali Haddad Adel

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Imam Khomeini Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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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 2 September 2005.