

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/081/2006

21 July 2006

Further Information on UA 34/06 (MDE 13/011/2006, 10 February 2006) and follow-ups (MDE 13/022/2006, 28 February 2006; MDE 13/070/ 2006, 23 June 2006) - Possible incommunicado detention/ Fear of torture and ill-treatment/ Possible prisoner of conscience

IRAN **Elham Afroutan (f), aged 21, journalist and member of the Writers' Association, Mohsen Dorostkar (m), journalist**

The verdicts in the cases of journalists Elham Afroutan and Mohsen Dorostkar were issued by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on 4 July 2006. They were arrested in January following the publication of a satirical article in the provincial weekly newspaper *Tammadon-e Hormozgan* (Hormozgan's Civilization), on which they both work.

Elham Afroutan, a journalist at *Tammadon-e Hormozgan*, was reportedly banned for five years from "exercising her social rights" (which includes being banned from working as a journalist), after she was convicted of the charge of "spreading vice." However, she was acquitted of the charge of insulting Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution. She was also sentenced to one year's imprisonment which was suspended for five years, reportedly on account of her age. According to her lawyer, Elham Afroutan will appeal against her conviction and sentence.

Mohsen Dorostkar, the editor-in-chief of the *Tammadon-e Hormozgan* newspaper, was reportedly acquitted.

The *Tammadon-e Hormozgan* newspaper was permanently closed down in April 2006 and its licence was revoked by a criminal court in Tehran for "insulting the Islamic Republic's leadership".

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

- urging the authorities to lift the ban on Elham Afroutan forbidding her from working as journalist as this sentence is solely related to the publication of the article; pointing out that Amnesty International considered her to be a prisoner of conscience, held solely on account of the peaceful exercise of their internationally recognized right to freedom of expression and as such she should have been released unconditionally;
- reminding the authorities that as a state party to the ICCPR they have undertaken to uphold Article 19 of the covenant which states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Office of the Supreme Leader, Shoahada Street,

Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 251 774 2228 (mark "FAO the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei")

**Email: info@leader.ir
istiftaa@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

Email: Please send emails via the feedback form on the Persian site of the website
<http://www.iranjudiciary.org/contactus-feedback-fa.html>

The text of the feedback form translates as:

**1st line: name, 2nd line: email address, 3rd line: subject heading;
then enter your email into the text box**

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance

His Excellency Mohammad-Hossein Saffar-Harandi

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance

Public Relations Department, Central Building

Kamal al-Molk Street, Baharestan Square

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info@prcm.gov.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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

Fax: + 98 21 6 649 5880

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

via website: www.president.ir/email

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 1 September 2006.