

# URGENT ACTION

## IRANIAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND MOTHER ARRESTED

**Kouhyar Goudarzi**, a member of the Committee for Human Rights Reporters (CHRR), was arrested on 31 July 2011 in Tehran, Iran, by plainclothes individuals believed to be from the Ministry of Intelligence. His mother, **Parvin Mokhtareh**, was arrested the next day. They are at risk of torture or other ill treatment.

**Kouhyar Goudarzi** was arrested at the home of a friend, together with the host and a friend. Neighbours reported seeing the three men taken away by plainclothes individuals believed to be from the Ministry of Intelligence. Since his arrest, members of Kouhyar Goudarzi's family and his lawyer, Mina Jaffari, have inquired as to his whereabouts and have neither been given information on his whereabouts, nor confirmation of his arrest. Amnesty International fears he may be currently held in solitary confinement at Evin Prison in Tehran.

In the early hours of 1 August, shortly after Kouhyar Goudarzi was arrested, his mother **Parvin Mokhtareh** was also arrested in Kerman, in southern Iran. During her arrest, Parvin Mokhtareh was reportedly told that her son had been arrested and sent to Evin Prison. Parvin Mokhtareh has been accused of "insulting the Leader", "propaganda against the system", and "acting against national security", stemming from interviews she gave when her son was imprisoned in 2010 in relation to his peaceful human rights activities.

A relative inquired about Kouhyar Goudarzi's whereabouts with the Prosecutor's office, but was told the Prosecutor's office did not have any information about his arrest. Kouhyar Goudarzi's family also went to Evin Prison in Tehran and was told he was not held there, despite unconfirmed reports stating Kouhyar Goudarzi may be held in section 240 of Evin Prison. Kouhyar Goudarzi's family has not had any contact with him since his arrest and he is believed to be held in conditions amounting to an enforced disappearance.

### Please write immediately in Persian, Arabic, English or your own language:

- Call on the Iranian authorities to immediately disclose Kouhyar Goudarzi's whereabouts, to allow him to receive visits from his family and a lawyer of his own choosing without delay and to grant him adequate medical care;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Kouhyar Goudarzi and Parvin Mokhtareh are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Stress that if Kouhyar Goudarzi is held solely for his peaceful human rights activities, he is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released. If Parvin Mokhtareh has been arrested solely because of her advocacy work for his release, she should be immediately and unconditionally released as well.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 OCTOBER 2011 TO:

#### Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid  
Keshvar Doust Street, Tehran, Islamic  
Republic of Iran  
Email: [info\\_leader@leader.ir](mailto:info_leader@leader.ir)  
Twitter: "Call on #Iran leader @khamenei\_ir  
disclose whereabouts of Kouhyar Goudarzi"  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani  
[care of] Public relations Office  
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street  
Vali Asr Ave., above Pasteur Street  
intersection  
Tehran,  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [bia.judi@yahoo.com](mailto:bia.judi@yahoo.com) (In subject line:  
FAO Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### And copies to:

Secretary General, High Council for Human  
Rights  
Mohammad Javad Larijani  
High Council for Human Rights  
[care of] Office of the Head of Judiciary  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., South of Serah-e  
Jomjouri,  
Tehran 1316814737  
Islamic Republic of Iran

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 347/09. Further information:

[www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/090/2010/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/090/2010/en)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kouhyar Goudarzi was released from prison in December 2010 after serving a one year prison sentence for “spreading propaganda against the system” and other counts in breach of his rights to freedom of expression and association. An appeal was rejected in October 2010.

The CHRR was founded in 2006 and campaigns against all kinds of human rights violations, including against women, children, prisoners, workers and others. It is banned by the Iranian authorities and its members have continued to face intense harassment and prosecution since the disputed presidential election in June 2009.

On 9 January 2011, CHRR member, journalist and human rights activist Shiva Nazar Ahari, had a four-year prison sentence upheld on appeal. A further two-year prison sentence for “gathering and colluding with intent to harm state security” was overturned. She is currently at liberty awaiting a summons to start serving this final sentence. Several other CHRR members are also facing imprisonment or have fled the country for their own safety.

Members of the CHRR have told Amnesty International that Saeed Ha’eri has also received a two-year prison sentence, which was upheld by an appeal court but the details were not available at the time of writing.

Shiva Nazar Ahari was arrested on 20 December 2009 along with, Kouhyar Goudarzi and Saeed Haeri. They were taken from a bus while on their way to the funeral of a senior cleric critical of the authorities, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, which was due to take place the following day. Facing persecution in Iran, other CHRR members fled Iran and now reside outside the country.

Navid Khanjani, a member of both the CHRR and the Association to Oppose Discrimination in Education (AODE), was sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment on 31 January 2011. He has appealed, but an appeal hearing date has not yet been set. If imprisoned, Amnesty International would consider him to be a prisoner of conscience, held solely in connection with his peaceful human rights activities. In July 2011, it was reported that plainclothes agents had been stationed outside of Navid Khanjani’s home and he expressed fears for his safety at the time.

Navid Khanjani was arrested in Esfahan, central Iran, on 2 March 2010. He faced an unfair trial on 20 December 2010 in Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court. He was reportedly sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment in connection with his work with the AODE; and five for his work with the CHRR. An additional three years were said to have been handed down for “creating unease in the public mind”, and “propaganda against the system”. Navid Khanjani was eventually sentenced to 12 years imprisonment after the court reportedly applied ‘Islamic mercy’.

Other organizations whose members have been arrested or sentenced include the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Iran, Human Rights Activists in Iran and the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Student activists and leaders have also been targeted.

Name: Kouhyar Goudarzi (m), Parvin Mokhtareh (f)  
Gender: (m), (f)

Further information on UA: 347/09 Index: MDE 13/076/2011 Issue Date: 23 August 2011

