

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/001/2002

1 February 2002

Further information on UA 298/01 (MDE 13/046/2002, 27 November 2001) and follow-up (MDE 13/014/2001, 12 December 2001 details of follow up) - NEW CONCERN: Fear of possible ill treatment or torture

IRANSiamak Pourzand (m) aged 70, intellectual and manager of *Majmue-ye Farhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran* (The Tehran Cultural Centre)

Amnesty International is concerned that Siamak Pourzand is being ill treated and possibly tortured in custody, possibly with the aim of obtaining a "confession" in advance of a trial. No charges have been made against him and he has been denied the right to legal representation.

There has been no official acknowledgment that Siamak Pourzand is in custody. It is not known where and under what conditions he is being held. It is also not known who is holding him, though some reports indicate that those detaining him are possibly linked to elements in the judiciary.

Siamak Pourzand's sister Mahin Pourzand, from whose house he was arrested on 24 November 2001, was requested on 7 December to take him a change of clothes. He was then possibly held at the Ostad Motahhari Street office of the Committee for Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice, which is reportedly also called the *Edare-ye Amaken*, or Bureau of Premises. This office is reportedly responsible for the enforcement of accepted moral codes in companies and other offices.

Amnesty International has now learned that Mahin Pourzand was permitted to meet with Siamak Pourzand at the *Edare-ye Amaken* on 12 or 13 January 2002. The meeting reportedly lasted 10 minutes and Siamak Pourzand, who arrived by car from an unknown location, reportedly appeared afraid and weak.

On 10 December Amnesty International wrote to the Head of the Judiciary seeking urgent clarification of the fate of Siamak Pourzand. There has been no reply to this letter. Enquiries reportedly undertaken by the Islamic Human Rights Commission have not been able to establish where Siamak Pourzand is being held.

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

- seeking urgent clarification from the Head of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Intelligence to make public where and when Siamak Pourzand was arrested, and where he is detained;
- expressing concern that he appears to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs;
- seeking assurances from the Head of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Intelligence that Siamak Pourzand is not being ill treated or tortured while in detention;
- urging the authorities that, unless he is to be charged with an internationally recognized criminal offence, Siamak Pourzand should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern that he has been denied the right to legal representation and regular family visits;

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, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency
Email: webmaster@wilayah.org; (on the subject line write: For the
attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami
 The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
 Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran
E-mail: khatami@president.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi
 Ministry of Justice
 Park-e Shahr
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
Faxes: + 98 21 879 6671 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of
Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Intelligence

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam 'Ali Younesi
 Second Negarestan Street
 Pasdaran Avenue
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Intelligence Minister, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
 His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Tehran, Iran
Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of
the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Parliamentary Committee

Mohsen Mirdamadi Najafabadi
 Article 90 Commission (Komisyon-e Asl-e Navad), Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami, Imam
 Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Majles, Tehran, Iran
Telex: 21 42 32 ICAI IR
Faxes: + 98 21 646 1746 (Can be difficult to reach, please be patient)
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES 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 15 March 2002.