

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/04/97

9 January 1997

Further information on UA 124/96 (MDE 13/17/96, 17 May 1996) and follow-up (MDE 13/28/96, 6 August) - Unacknowledged detention / Fear of "disappearance" and new concern: House arrest

IRAN Ayatollah Ya'sub al-Din Rastgari

Ayatollah Ya'sub al-Din Rastgari, detained in late February 1996, was reportedly released from prison on 21 December 1996.

However, unconfirmed reports suggest he is currently under house arrest in Qom. Amnesty International has no information about his legal status, but fears that he may be held under house arrest solely because of his expression of his conscientiously held beliefs.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French or in your own language:

- seeking clarification about Ayatollah Ya'sub al-Din Rastgari's current legal status, including any charges or trial proceedings;
- calling for the lifting of physical restrictions placed upon him if he is being held solely because of the non-violent expression of his beliefs.

APPEALS TO:

1) Leader of the Islamic Republic
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Head of the Judiciary
His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98-21-6465242
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) Minister of Information
His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian
Ministry of Information
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
His Excellency Dr Ali Akbar Velayati
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue

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Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98-21-674790

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee
Iman Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Committee,
PO Box 13165-137, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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 27 February 1997.