PUBLIC

20 July 1999

Further information on UA 141/99 (MDE 13/13/99, 22 June 1999) - Fear for safety and new concern: Torture

IRAN Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, age 39, journalist Hossein Kashani, journalist

New names:Mohammad Massod Salamati Seyed Djavad Emami Parviz Safari,

and possibly others

Heshmatollah Tabarzadi was reportedly tortured when he and Hossein Kashani were taken from Evin prison to an unknown place of detention, and held there for 20 days. They have now reportedly been returned to Evin prison.

The two men were arrested in mid-June 1999, detained in Evin prison and denied access to family or legal representation. To Amnesty International's knowledge there has still not been any official confirmation of the charges brought against them.

A number of their associates, including Mohammad Massod Salamati, Seyed Djavad Emami and Parviz Safari, were arrested on or around 13 July, and taken to an unknown location. They had previously been arrested and briefly detained on 6 July, during a student demonstration outside the United Nations office on Qa'em Maqam Farahani Avenue in Tehran, in protest at recent press restrictions in Iran and the arrest and detention of Heshmatollah Tabarzadi and Hossein Kashani. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety. Amnesty International believes all five may be prisoners of conscience.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These arrests follow the recent student demonstrations against new laws curbing press freedom. Demonstrations began in Tehran on 8 July 1999, when a group of students gathered outside university hostels in northern Tehran in a peaceful protest against the closure of the daily newspaper *Salam*. They were attacked by armed members of the vigilante student group *Ansar-e Hezbollah*, who were later joined by members of the security forces in an assault on the student residences in which at least one person was killed. (See UA 160/99, MDE 13/15/99, 9 July 1999, and follow-up, MDE 13/16/99, 13 July 1999; and Public Statement, MDE 13/18/99, 14 July 1999.)

The demonstrations increased in size, and spread to other towns, including Shiraz, Rasht, Esfahan, Mashhad and Tabriz. A number of student activists have been arrested in connection with the demonstrations, and several student activists have reportedly gone into hiding, in fear for their safety.

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

- seeking urgent clarification of the status and whereabouts of the five people named above, and any others arrested with them;

- asking for information on the precise charges brought against them;

- seeking assurances that the five, and any others arrested with them, will be granted immediate access to their families and legal representation of their choice;

- urging that all five are released immediately and unconditionally if they are detained solely for the peaceful expression of their conscientiously held beliefs;

- seeking guarantees from the authorities of the safety of the five, and any others arrested with them, and assurances that they will be treated humanely in detention.

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

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami The Presidency, Palestine Avenue Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran **Telegrams:President Khatami, Tehran, Iran** Salutation:Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi Ministry of Justice Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran Telegrams:Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran Salutation:Your Excellency

Minister of the Interior His Excellency Moussavi Lari Ministry of the Interior Dr Fatemi Avenue Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran Telegrams:Interior 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 Avenue Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
PO Box 13165-137
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 31 August 1999.

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