

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/020/2001

June 22, 2001

Further information on UA 236/00 (MDE 13/22/00, 9 August 2000) and follow-ups (MDE 13/29/00, 17 October 2000, MDE 13/009/2001, 12 March 2001, MDE 13/010/2001, 21 March 2001 and MDE 13/016/2001, 21 May 2001) - Prisoners of Conscience/Medical concern/fear of ill-treatment and psychological torture/incommunicado detention

IRANHojjatoleslam Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari, aged 50
Massoud Behnoud, journalist, aged 55
Dr Reza Reiss-Tousi, aged 65
Mohammad Bastehnegar

Approx 10-20 supporters of the Iran Freedom and *Milli Mazhabi* (Religious Nationalist) Movements, including (new names):

Morteza Kazemian
Saeed Madani
Mohammad Maleki, aged 68
Mohammad Mohammadi Ardahali
Mahmoud Emrani
Masoud Pedram
Habibollah Peyman
Hossein Rafiee
Taqi Rahmani
Alireza Rajai

Hojjatoleslam Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari's son wrote to the Special Court for the Clergy (SCC) on 20 June, to ask that a medical team approved by the Court examine his father, who is severely diabetic. The SCC reportedly rejected the request the next day.

Around 10-20 supporters of the and *Milli Mazhabi* (Religious Nationalist) movement are still detained in "temporary" solitary confinement, more than three months after they were arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the government. Reportedly none of them have been told under which articles of the Criminal Code they are detained.

Around 70 relatives of the detainees named above, and other families involved in the *Milli Mazhabi* movement, demonstrated outside the UN offices in Tehran on 20 June. The group passed on a letter for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, protesting against the continued incommunicado detention of their relatives in an unknown location; the denial of their right to legal counsel; the use of psychological pressure to extract "confessions"; threats and pressure brought on political prisoners' families to remain silent and not publicly protest against the unlawful acts of state security agents.

The letter reads: "How much longer are our loved ones to suffer in a state of near total sensory deprivation in cruel and degrading conditions, without access to legal counsel and deprived of even the most basic Human Rights?" It adds that "The secretary of the Islamic Human Rights Commission has told us that he could do nothing as the judiciary has stopped responding to his letters."

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

- urging the authorities to release Hojjatoleslam Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari and all supporters of the *Milli Mazhabi* movement immediately and unconditionally, as they are prisoners of conscience;
- urging the authorities to tell the families of those arrested exactly where they are detained, and to let them see their families and lawyers;
- asking the authorities to guarantee that Hojjatoleslam Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari and all those detained since 11 March will be treated humanely in prison and that they will be granted the right to lawyers and medical treatment where necessary;
- asking what internationally-recognised criminal offences they are alleged to have committed or have been charged with;
- asking for details of Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari's appeal hearing, which reportedly resulted in his death sentence being overturned.

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, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran

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

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

Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far

Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
PO Box 13165-137, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 204 0541

E-mail: ihrc@Majlis.ir

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

Telex: 21 42 32 ICAI IR

Faxes: + 98 21 646 1746 (Can be difficult to reach, please be patient)

Families of the Prisoners of Conscience

E-mail: families-of-iranian-prisoners-of-conscience@justice.com

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 3 August 2001.