

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/26/98

UA 310/98

Fear for safety/possible disappearance 11 December 1998

IRAN Mohammad Ja'far Puyandeh, writer  
Hushang Golshiri, writer  
Kazem Kordavani, writer  
'Ali Ashraf Darvishiyan, writer  
Mansur Kushan, writer

Mohammad Mokhtari, writer (dead)

---

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of the prominent Iranian writers named above. One of the five, Mohammad Ja'far Puyandeh, has been missing since 9 December 1998.

The five were questioned by the Iranian authorities in October in connection with their attempt to establish an independent writers' association called *Kanun*. Writer Mohammad Mokhtari, who was questioned with them, "disappeared" on 3 December and was found dead six days later, in unexplained circumstances. Unconfirmed reports say marks on his head and neck suggest he was beaten and strangled.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Critics of the government, and independent writers, have come under attack in the past month. Journalist and translator Majid Sharif, who had written for the banned publication *Iran-e Farda*, went missing on 20 November while on his way to the funeral of a Shi'ite cleric in the town of Mashhad. His family were summoned to a mortuary in Tehran to identify his body on 24 November 1998. The official coroner's report gave heart failure as the cause of death.

Amnesty International has expressed its concern at the circumstances of Majid Sharif's death.

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

- urging the Iranian authorities to guarantee the safety of Mohammad Ja'far Puyandeh, Hushang Golshiri, Kazem Kordavani, 'Ali Ashraf Darvishiyan and Mansur Kushan;
- urging the Iranian authorities to clarify the status and whereabouts of Mohammad Ja'far Puyandeh;
- requesting that, as a matter of urgency, the Iranian authorities undertake a full, impartial and independent investigation into the deaths of Majid Sharif and Mohammad Mokhtari, and that they make public the results of any such investigation;
- reminding the government of Iran of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

#### 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 Khamanei, 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**

**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  
**Faxes: + 98 21 204 0541**

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 22 January 1999.

***"Everyone has the right to life,  
liberty and security of person."***

*Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>