

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/030/2003

15 August 2003

**Further Information on UA 204/03 (MDE 13/018/2003, 10 July 2003) and follow-ups (MDE 13/023/2003, 17 July 2003) and (MDE 13/024/2003 31 July 2003) Fear for safety/ Incommunicado detention/ Risk of torture and ill-treatment/ Prisoners of conscience**

**IRAN**  
**Released:** Said Razavi Faghih (m) ]  
Arash Hashemi (m) ] student leaders  
Mehdi Habibi (m) ] and human rights defenders  
Reza Ameri Nassab (m) ]

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On 13 August, a member of the central council of the Islamic Association of Amir Kabir University, reportedly announced that the Associations' secretary, Mehdi Habibi, had been released that night. Two days earlier, Reza Ameri Nassab was allegedly released from Tehran's Evin prison, along with eight other students from Tehran University and one from Shaid Beheshti University.

Reza Ameri Nassab and Mehdi Habibi were amongst student leaders from the *Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat*, Organization for the Consolidation of Unity (OCU), which on 7 July published an open letter addressed to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The letter provided specific details of human rights violations in Iran and called for an end to "political and social apartheid" in the country.

According to a report on 14 August, in the on-line newspaper, *Peyk-e Iran*, Mehdi Habibi was released on bail for an unspecified amount, on the authorisation of Judge Haddad, from Bench 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court. Mehdi Habibi is scheduled to face trial on 4 November, on charges including writing a letter to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, radio interviews with foreign radio stations, and in connection with articles that he wrote in the Amir Kabir University student body publication, *Sahar*. It is not known whether the release of Reza Ameri Nassab is conditional, or if he will face charges.

On or around 5 August, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khameni, reportedly called upon the judiciary "to exercise clemency towards those students who had disassociated themselves from troublemakers". The following day, the Chief prosecutor for Tehran province, Said Mortazavi, reportedly ordered the release of at least nine prisoners, including members of the OCU. According to unconfirmed information, Arash Hashemi was released in early August.

Said Razavi Faghih, who is being held in incommunicado detention at Evin prison, had previously been granted access to a lawyer and had his period of detention formally extended for one month. He has not been charged.

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

- welcoming the reported release of Mehdi Habibi, Reza Ameri Nassab, and other prisoners associated with the OCU between 6 and 14 August 2003;
- seeking clarification as to whether Arash Hashemi remains in detention;
- seeking clarification as to whether the release of Reza Ameri Nassab is unconditional and if not, what specific charges he is to face;
- expressing concern that Mehdi Habibi reportedly faces charges in connection with writing a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in which human rights concerns are raised, and in connection with other acts that do not appear to be recognisably criminal offences

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Said Razavi Faghih, as a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of his political beliefs;
- seeking assurances that Said Razavi Faghih and Arash Hashemi (if he is still in detention) will be humanely treated;
- calling for the detainees to be granted immediate and continuous access to their lawyer, family and any medical treatment they might need.

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei,

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Tehran

**E-mail:** webmaster@wilayah.org (address may be unreliable; please try to resend if returned; on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**E-mail:** khatami@president.ir (please resend your message if it does not get through the first time)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 879 6671 (please keep trying; 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

**Fax:** + 98 21 390 1999 (please keep trying; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry")

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 26 September 2003.