

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/097/2008

25 July 2008

Further Information on UA 169/08 (MDE 13/084/2008, 17 June 2008 and Follow up MDE 13/089/2008, 27 June 2008) Arbitrary arrest/fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAN **Mahboubeh Karami (f), aged 40, journalist and women's rights defender, and about 200 others**

Mahboubeh Karami has been held in Evin Prison in Tehran since 13 June. Bail of 1,000 billion rials (approximately US\$110,000) was set on 12 July, but her family have been unable to raise such a large amount.

Mahboubeh Karami's mother, Sedigheh Mosa'ebi, said that her daughter had told her by telephone on 25 June that about 90 women were arrested on 13 June, most of whom, like her, had nothing to do with the demonstration in Mellat Park which had been the trigger for mass arrests, and that those arrested had been ill-treated by security officers.

On 6 July, Mahboubeh Karami and nine other women who were arrested at the same time began a hunger strike in protest at their continued detention without charge or trial and the lack of facilities in prison. This hunger strike has ended, and all the women are reported to have been released, with the exception of Mahboubeh Karami.

On 21 July, her lawyer had still not been allowed to see her file, but he had heard from judicial officials that it might be possible to reduce the bail amount, or for it to be changed to some other form of guarantee. Mahboubeh Karami has spoken briefly with her lawyer by telephone.

Those demonstrating in Mellat Park were protesting about the arrest on 11 June of Abbas Palizdar, who had accused several senior Iranian officials of financial corruption in speeches he made at universities in Hamedan and Shiraz in May. He had been involved in a parliamentary Judicial Inquiry and Review Committee that had conducted an investigation into affairs of the judiciary.

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

- noting that Mahboubeh Karami and an unknown number of other people arrested at the same time, are still being held in Evin Prison, apparently without charge or trial;
- calling on the authorities to clarify the current legal status of all those arrested on 13 June;
- urging the authorities to ensure that none of those arrested are tortured or otherwise ill-treated while in detention;
- calling for all those detained to be allowed immediate access to their families, lawyers of their choice and to any medical treatment they may require;
- calling for the immediate release of all those detained unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offences and brought to trial promptly and fairly.

APPEALS TO:

Head of the Tehran Judiciary
Mr Ali Reza Avaie

No. 152, corner of 17th Alley
Before Shahid Motahhary Ave.,
Sanaei Ave., Karimkhan Zand Ave.,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 8832 6700 (works intermittently, please try three times and if it fails, please post or email)

Email: avaei@dadgostary-tehran.ir, info@dadgostary-tehran.ir

Salutation: Dear Mr Avaei

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

via website: www.president.ir/email

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi

Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh

Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri, Tehran 1316814737

Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject line write: **FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi**)

Director, Human Rights Headquarters of Iran

His Excellency Mohammad Javad Larijani

Howzeh Riassat-e Ghoveh Ghazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)

Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri, Tehran 1316814737, Iran

Fax: +98 21 3390 4986 (please keep trying)

Email: fsharafi@bia-judiciary.ir (In the subject line: **FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani**)

int_aff@judiciary.ir (In the subject line: **FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani**)

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 05 September.