

PUBLIC

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22 February 2001

Further information on UA 103/00 (MDE 13/20/00, 3 May 2000) and follow-ups (MDE 13/16/00, 6 July 2000; MDE 13/34/00, 18 December 2000; MDE 13/005/2001, 17 January 2001) - ill-treatment/prisoners of conscience/medical concern

IRAN Mehrangiz Kar (f), lawyer
 Shahla Lahiji (f), publisher
 Ali Afshari (m), student representative

Mehrangiz Kar, who has breast cancer, has been given permission to travel to Europe for medical treatment. She left Iran on or around 12 February, and is expected to return when the treatment is completed.

Shahla Lahiji remains free on bail, pending the outcome of her appeal against her four-year prison sentence.

Ali Afshari and Ezzatollah Sahabi (see UA 182/00, MDE 13/27/00) are reportedly "both in Evin Prison". The head of the Tehran Justice Department, Hojjatoleslam Abbas Ali Alizadeh, reportedly told this to the Article 90 Commission of the Iranian parliament, which investigates complaints by the public against all branches of the government, including the judiciary and the executive, on 30 January. The Commission had been investigating reports that both men had been held incommunicado for about a month, after they were arrested on new charges in late December 2000.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mehrangiz Kar and Shahla Lahiji are both vocal supporters of women's and other human rights.

In addition to the three people mentioned above, four other participants at the Berlin conference were sentenced to prison: Mehrangiz Kar, 10 years; Sadr, 10 years; Khalil Rostamkhani, nine years; Ezzatollah Sahabi, four years (see UA 182/00, MDE 13/27/00), followed by five years in exile (see follow-up on EXTRA 43/00, MDE 13/003/2001, 16 January 2001). Amnesty International will consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

Six others who attended the conference have reportedly been acquitted.

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

- welcoming the decision to allow Mehrangiz Kar to seek medical treatment abroad;
- urging that the charges against her, Shahla Lahiji and all those convicted for their participation in the Berlin conference be dropped immediately and unconditionally, since they are prisoners of conscience;
- asking the authorities why Ali Afshari is still in custody;
- seeking assurances that he will be allowed to see his family and lawyers, and will be treated humanely in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei

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

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, 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 21 537 8827 (number may be unreliable. A recorded message,
in English, will indicate when to send fax - please send before
it gives you the tone to leave a voice message)**

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880

E-mails: khatami@president.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 5 April 2001.