

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/007/2001

1 March 2001

Further information on UA 182/00 (MDE 13/13/00, 27 June 2000) and follow-up (MDE 13/27/00, 6 September 2000) - Fear of ill-treatment/Prisoners of Conscience and new concerns: health concern/allegations of torture

IRANEzzatollah Sahabi, journalist (m), age 70-75  
Khalil Rostamkhani, translator (m), 47

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Ezzatollah Sahabi was rearrested in December 2000, after he spoke at a student rally. He has reportedly been subjected to psychological torture, and his health is apparently failing.

His family were recently allowed to see him at the Revolutionary Court, but have not been told where he is held. They reportedly said that he was being held in solitary confinement, and that he was "in a very disturbing state, physically and psychologically."

Despite earlier assurances from the head of the Tehran Justice Department, Hojjatoleslam Abbas Ali Alizadeh (see further information on UA 103/00, 22 February 2001, MDE 13/002/2001), Ezzatollah Sahabi's family claim that he is still held in a secret detention centre and forced to undergo "interrogations" late at night.

On 25 February, member of Parliament Fatemeh Haqiqat-Joo reportedly alleged that Ezzatollah Sahabi had been subjected to "psychological torture" in prison and had been unable to recognise his family when they visited him.

Khalil Rostamkhani is currently free on bail, pending the outcome of his appeal.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Ezzatollah Sahabi was rearrested together with Ali Afshari (see UA 103/00 13/002/2001) in December 2000, after they spoke at a student rally in November. Ali Afshari is also reported to be held at an unknown location.

Together with Khalil Rostamkhani and four others, they were sentenced to prison terms in January in connection with their participation at a conference concerning political and social reform in Iran, which took place in Berlin in April 2000 (see EXTRA 43/00, MDE 13/003/2001).

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

- urging that prisoner of conscience Ezzatollah Sahabi be released immediately and unconditionally, and that all others imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of their conscientiously held beliefs be released;
- expressing concern at reports that Ezzatollah Sahabi has undergone psychological torture, and is in poor health;
- seeking assurances that he will receive medical treatment immediately, and guarantees that he is being treated humanely in detention;
- seeking assurances that Ezzatollah Sahabi is being given regular access to his family and a lawyer of his own choosing;
- asking where exactly he is in custody;
- reminding the Iranian authorities that torture is prohibited under Article 7 of the ICCPR, to which Iran is a state party, which states that "No one shall

be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

**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 12 April 2001.