

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/20/00

UA 103/00

Ill-treat

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

---

The three people named above are detained, possibly incommunicado, accused of "acting against national security". All three are prisoners of conscience and may be at risk of ill-treatment in detention

They are apparently detained because they took part in an academic and cultural conference in Berlin in April, where political and social reform in Iran were publicly debated.

Mehrangiz Kar and Shahla Lahiji were both detained by the Revolutionary Court on 29 April. Ali Afshari was detained the following day. It is expected that they will soon be moved to Evin Prison.

Mehrangiz Kar and Shahla Lahiji both vocal supporters of women's and other human rights. Ali Afshari is a representative of the student organisation *Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat* (Office for Strengthening Unity).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Berlin conference was marked by occasionally strong protests by Iranian political groups in exile. Elements within the Iranian judiciary apparently consider attendance at the conference to have been "harmful to national security". Many of those who attended have since faced arbitrary detention and interrogation.

Akbar Ganji, who spoke at the conference, was detained last week (see EXTRA 43/00, MDE 13/07/00, 25 April). Three journalists, Hamid Reza Jalaipour, of the editorial team of *Asr-e Azadegan* (Era of the Free), Ezzatollah Sahabi, publisher of *Iran-e Farda* (Tomorrow's Iran) and Alireza Alavitabar, editor of *Sobh-e Emrouz* (Morning of Today) were detained, interrogated and later released on bail. Jamileh Kadivar, a member of the Iranian parliament, the *Majles*, has also been summoned and is reportedly scheduled to appear before the Revolutionary Court today. She is the sister of the cleric Mohsen Kadivar, a prisoner of conscience, and the wife of the Minister of Culture, Ataollah Mohajerani. The writer Mahmud Dolatabadi has also been summoned by the Revolutionary Court. Amnesty International is monitoring these developments closely.

The photographs above are reproduced with the permission of the Heinrich Boel Institute, Berlin.

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

- urging that Mehrangiz Kar, Shahla Lahiji and Ali Afshari be released immediately and unconditionally, as they are prisoners of conscience;
- seeking urgent clarification of the charges they face;
- seeking assurances that they will be granted immediate access to legal representation of their choice and to their families;
- seeking guarantees from the authorities that Mehrangiz Kar, Shahla Lahiji and Ali Afshari will be treated humanely in detention.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1)Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2)President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3)Head of Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi  
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr,  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Head of 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 14 June 2000.