

IRANDr Hossein Ghaziyan (m), university lecturer and director of the Ayandeh Research Group (polling institute)

Behrouz Geranpayeh (m), journalist and Director of the National Institute for Research and Opinion Polls

Abbas Abdi (m), journalist

Mohsen Goudarzi (m), director of the National Plan for Assessing Iranians' Opinions and Values

Amnesty International fears that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan, Behrouz Geranpayeh and Abbas Abdi are at risk of ill treatment and possibly torture. Their families do not know where they are being held. There are fears that Mohsen Goudarzi may also be in danger due to his professional connection with the other detainees.

All four men were detained in connection with an opinion poll on US-Iranian relations carried out by the Ayandeh Research Group and published by the government-run news agency IRNA on 22 September, which showed that 74 percent of respondents favoured dialogue with the United States. The polling organization have since been closed down according to an order by the judiciary.

According to news reports on 10 November, member of parliament Seyyed Ali Akbar Moussavi Khoieni stated that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan and Behrouz Geranpayeh are "under considerable pressure", and that both men are being held in an "illegal military prison". This is widely thought to be *Prison 66*, in north Tehran, which is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards, a state security force.

Behrouz Geranpayeh was detained around 17 October. On 7 November, he was allowed to meet his wife at their house in Tehran for one hour. He was brought from an unknown location and four non-uniformed officials sat with the couple during the meeting. They were not allowed to discuss where he is being held nor under what conditions. His wife said that he has lost 10 to 12 kilograms, and that he was weak: she has expressed her profound concern over his health. According to a statement reportedly made in the Iran daily newspaper, Seyyed Ali Akbar Moussavi Khoieni said that Behrouz Geranpayeh requires regular doses of "intravenous medicine". He has not been formally charged with any offence, yet his bail has reportedly been set at US \$250 000.

Dr Hossein Ghaziyan was detained by judicial officials on 31 October, following a search of his Tehran office. Although he has been allowed to make one telephone call to his family, he was not allowed to say where he is being held. Friends and family fear that he is under pressure to make unspecified confessions. He has not been charged with any offence.

Abbas Abdi was detained on 4 November following a police search at his Tehran home. According to an Agence France Presse report on 11 November, the Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF) a political group supporting President Khatami, has stated that he is held in "solitary confinement with no access to family or lawyer". He has already served a jail term for criticising former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Mohsen Goudarzi was reportedly arrested on 30 October. Amnesty International does not have any specific information regarding his condition or whereabouts, but is concerned for his safety.

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

- seeking assurances that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan, Behrouz Geranpayeh, Mohsen Goudarzi and Abbas Abdi are not facing ill treatment or torture while in detention;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the detainees unless they are to be charged with an internationally recognized criminal offence;
- expressing concern that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan, Behrouz Geranpayeh and Abbas Abdi may have been denied access to their family and the right to legal representation while in detention;
- seeking clarification of the status of Mohsen Goudarzi;
- reminding the authorities that Iran is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which under Article 7 states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

Email: webmaster@wilayah.org; (on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, 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 Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 879 6671 (unreliable; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.com (Public Relations Office of Judiciary; please mark for the attention of HE Ayatollah Shahroudi)

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

Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 (unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Law Enforcement Forces (LEF, or the police)

If possible, please copy your appeal to the "Islamic Republic of Iran Police Force", noting that it is a copy of an appeal, at:

<http://www.policeiri.org/fpage/contactus.html>

Salutation: Dear Sir

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 23 December 2002.