

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/024/2003

31 July 2003

Further Information on UA 204/03 (MDE 13/018/2003, 10 July 2003) and follow-up (MDE 13/023/2003, 17 July 2003) - Fear for safety/ Incommunicado detention/ Risk of torture and ill-treatment New concern: Prisoners of Conscience

IRAN	Reza Ameri Nassab (m)]	
	Arash Hashemi (m)]	student leaders
	Said Razavi Faghih (m)]	
	Mehdi Habibi (m)]	

Tehran's Chief Prosecutor Said Mortazavi has reportedly told the parents of Reza Ameri Nassab that "they should bear in mind the grave stone for their son." This increases concerns for the safety of the three other detained student activists, Arash Hashemi, Said Razavi Faghih and Mehdi Habibi. Amnesty International considers the four men to be human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of their political beliefs.

According to a report on the *Peik-e Iran* internet news website on 29 July, Reza Ameri Nassab's parents requested a meeting with the Chief Prosecutor in order to seek the release of their son. During the course of the meeting, Said Mortazavi allegedly also told Reza Ameri Nassab's parents that the crimes committed by their son, a leader of *Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat*, Organization for the Consolidation of Unity (OCU), were so serious that he could be issued with a death sentence. Reza Ameri Nassab was reportedly one of the key originators of an open letter sent by the OCU to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 7 July. The OCU's letter stated that its purpose was "to enumerate the long list of violations against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the Iranian government and [to] ask the UN to look into them".

Reza Ameri Nassab's place of detention is still unknown. Mehdi Habibi has reportedly been transferred to an open section of Tehran's Evin prison. The authorities have failed to grant the two men access to their chosen legal representative Abdolfattah Soltani, founding member of the Association for the Defence of Human Rights. There no further information on the legal status of OCU leader Arash Hashemi, although unconfirmed reports have stated that he was released 48 hours after his arrest. It is not known whether he or any of the others have been charged with specific offences.

Said Razavi-Faghih, also held in Evin prison, has been granted access to a lawyer, and the judiciary has reportedly formally extended his period of detention for one month. Before his arrest, Said Razavi-Faghih repeatedly spoke in public about the prospects for the Iranian student movement and sharply criticized the Iranian government. The text of this interview is available online at:
<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero071503.html>.

Said Razavi-Faghih also co-signed an editorial piece in the New York Times concerning the December 2002 student demonstrations. That article is accessible online at:
http://www.merip.org/newspaper_opeds/fight_for_iran_democratic.html.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Reza Ameri Nassab, Mehdi Habibi, Said Razavi Faghhi and possibly Arash Hashemi as prisoners of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of their political beliefs;
- expressing concern at reports that Tehran's Chief Prosecutor, Said Mortazavi, reportedly made comments concerning Reza Ameri Nassab's presumed guilt, in contravention of both Article 37 of the Iranian constitution and international standards for fair trials as laid out in Article 14 of the United Nations International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and urging Iran's Disciplinary Court of Judges to urgently examine such claims;
- seeking clarification of the legal status of Reza Ameri Nassab, Mehdi Habibi, Said Razavi Faghhi and Arash Hashemi, and calling on the authorities to confirm the whereabouts of Reza Ameri Nassab and Arash Hashemi;
- seeking assurances that the four men will be humanely treated;
- calling for Reza Ameri Nassab, Mehdi Habibi, Said Razavi Faghhi and Arash Hashemi to be granted immediate access to their lawyer, relatives and any medical treatment they might need;
- reminding the authorities that confessions extracted under duress are prohibited by Iranian law and a violation of Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party. It states that "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment."
- calling for all those found responsible of torture of prisoners to be brought to justice in fair trials.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei,

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

Telegram: His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

E-mail: webmaster@wilayah.org (address may be unreliable; please try to resend if returned; on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

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

Telegram: His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami, 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 Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegram: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 879 6671 (please keep trying; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

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

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

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 11 September 2003.