PUBLIC AI index: MDE 13/021/2002

Distrib: PG/SC

To: Health professional coordinators

From: Medical team / Middle East Program

Date: 7 November 2002

Further information on MEDICAL ACTION

Release: Abdollah Nouri

Iran

(update on MDE 13/010/2002, 27 June 2002)

Key words release / prisoner of conscience

Release of Abdollah Nouri

Abdollah Nouri, former Minister of the Interior, was granted a pardon by the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and released on 5 November 2002.

Abdollah Nouri was publisher of the daily newspaper *Khordad* and earlier Minister of the Interior until 1998. In November 1999 he was tried on 20 vaguely worded charges, including "insulting government officials", which did not amount to internationally recognizable criminal offences. His newspaper *Khordad* was banned and he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

A medical action was issued on his behalf in June 2002 urging that he be provided with appropriate medical care, in particular for a shoulder injury which he had sustained in April 2002.

Recommendations

No further action is required from the health professional network. Many thanks for all appeals written on Abdollah Nouri's behalf.