

22 October 1998

Further information on UA 254/98 (MDE 13/14/98, 22 September 1998) and follow-up (MDE 13/19/98, 21 October 1998) - Fear of death penalty / Prisoners of conscience / Fear of Torture / Health concerns

IRAN Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin
 Hamid Reza Jalaipour
 Mohammad Javadi Hesar
 Ibrahim Nabavi

Journalists Mohammad Javadi Hesar and Ibrahim Nabavi were released on bail on 22 October 1998. Amnesty International had also just learned of the release of their colleague Hamid Reza Jalaipour on 13 October 1998.

Concern continues, however, for the well-being of Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin who remains in custody. He reportedly has kidney problems and is in general ill-health, exacerbated by the harsh conditions of detention, amounting to possible ill-treatment and torture.

In a press statement given after his release, Hamid Reza Jalaipour reportedly stated that he and his colleagues had been held in solitary confinement and had been subjected to "indirect psychological torture".

The men, employees of the Iranian daily newspaper *Tous*, were arrested between 16 and 20 September after the paper printed an article which reportedly questioned the recent policies of the Iranian government in Afghanistan. This came amidst calls by some Iranian leaders for tighter controls over the press. *Tous* was banned on 16 September and its offices raided by members of the Revolutionary Guard. Amnesty International was concerned that the men were at threat of being tried under charges, including subversion, that could result in the death penalty.

The organization regards Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin as a prisoner of conscience.

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

- welcoming the release of Hamid Reza Jalaipour, Mohammad Javadi Hesar and Ibrahim Nabavi but asking for the immediate and unconditional release of Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin who appears to be detained solely for the peaceful expression of his views and as such is a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern that Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin is reported to be in poor health as a result of the harsh conditions of his detention;
- seeking urgent clarification of the exact offences with which the men are charged;
- asking that any charges against the men be dropped if it is for reason of their non-violent activities;
- requesting that Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin be treated humanely and that he be granted immediate access to his family, to a lawyer of his choice, and to any medical attention he requires;
- reminding the government of Iran of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19 : "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

APPEALS TO:

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, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 650203 (via Interior Ministry, ask for fax to be forwarded)

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 311 6276 (via Foreign Affairs, ask for fax to be forwarded)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Ministry of Justice

Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of 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

Faxes: + 98 21 311 6276

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far

Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission

PO Box 13165-137

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 3 December 1998.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"
Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>