

URGENT ACTION



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Note: Please write on behalf of these persons even though you may not have received the original UA when issued on July 4, 2007. Thanks!

19 December 2008

Further Information on UA 171/07 (4 July 2007) and follow-up (19 July 2007; 1 November 2007; 21 May 2008 and 25 June 2008) - Fear of Torture/Prisoner of conscience/Medical concern

IRAN **Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand (m), human rights defender, journalist**

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is believed to have suffered a heart attack on 17 December. He was taken to the medical facility in Evin Prison, but no doctor was available as it was a national holiday in Iran. Amnesty International is concerned that he is not receiving adequate medical care.

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand has been in poor health for some time. Earlier in December 2008, he was examined by a prison doctors who noted that he was suffering from dizziness and unstable blood pressure, and that existing problems with his kidneys and prostate were worsening. He is believed to have been seen by a heart specialist and an urologist while in prison. In May 2008, he collapsed in prison and was unconscious for about 30 minutes.

In recent months, doctors at Evin Prison had requested that Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand be granted specialist treatment. However, the prison authorities have not permitted him to receive medical care outside prison. Article 229 of the Prison Regulations stipulates that a prisoner suffering from a serious medical condition whose condition cannot be treated inside prison, or whose condition will worsen if they stay in prison, should be released by the prison authorities for one month's medical leave, renewable, on the recommendation of a doctor and with the agreement of the Prison Director.

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is serving a 10-year sentence for "acting against state security by establishing an illegal group [the Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan (HROK)]" which was upheld by Branch 54 of the Appeal Court in Tehran on 28 September 2008. Amnesty International considers Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand to be a prisoner of conscience, held solely on account of his peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association in relation to his position as chair of the HROK and his activities as a journalist.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Kurdish minority in Iran lives mainly in the west and north-west of the country, in the province of Kurdistan and neighboring provinces bordering Kurdish areas of Turkey and Iraq. The HROK was founded by Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand in April 2005 and has between 100 and 200 members. The authorities have never granted it official recognition as a non-governmental body, despite a longstanding request. The objectives of the HROK include the protection of fundamental rights such as those set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions; the teaching, dissemination and encouragement of respect for human rights; and the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Iran based on the principle of equality before the law.

Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

- expressing concern that Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is not receiving adequate medical treatment in detention;
- urging the authorities to grant him immediate access to adequate medical treatment, including outside the prison if necessary;
- calling on them to release Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO:

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi
Shahrudi
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh/Office of the
Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave.
south of Serah-e Jomhouri
Tehran 1316814737
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Email: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir
(In the subject line write: FAO
Ayatollah Shahrudi)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Director, Human Rights Headquarters of Iran

His Excellency Mohammad Javad Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh/Office of the
Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave.
south of Serah-e Jomhouri
Tehran 1316814737
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Fax: 011 98 21 3390 4986
(there are problems with this line,
please try three times)

Email: int_aff@judiciary.ir
(In the subject line: FAO
Mohammad Javad Larijani)

COPIES TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street - Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Email: info@leader.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: 011 98 21 6 649 5880

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Via website: <http://www.president.ir/en/president/email/index.php>

OR

<http://www.president.ir/en/>

*Iran does not presently have an embassy in the United States.
Instead, please send copies to:*

Iranian Interests Section
Embassy of Pakistan
2209 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington DC 20007

Phone: 202 965 4990

Fax: 202 965 1073

Email: requests@daftar.org

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.

Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after 30 January 2009.