

URGENT ACTION



UANetwork Office AIUSA 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington DC 20003 T. 202.544.0200 F. 202.675.8566 E. uan@aiusa.org amnestyusa.org/urgent/

Note: Please write on behalf of these persons even though you may not have received the original UA when issued on October 20, 2008. Thanks!

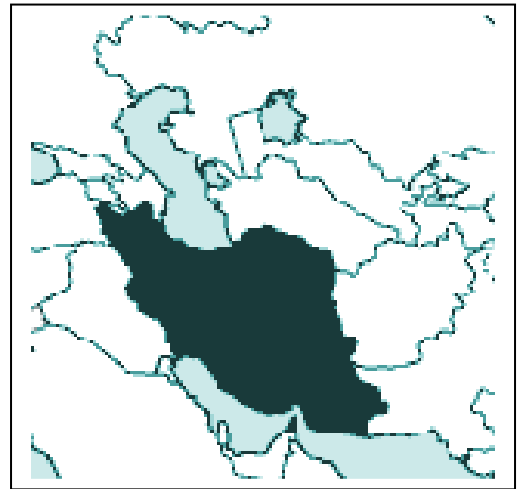
31 October 2008

Further Information on UA 286/08 (20 October 2008) Incommunicado detention/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAN Jamila Nabgan (f), aged 43, member of Arab minority in Iran

Jamila Nabgan, sister of a prominent member of an outlawed Arab political party, Habib Nabgan, was released on bail on 24 October, four days after she was arrested. She now has to report every morning to the Ministry of Intelligence detention facility in Ahvaz, Khuzestan province, where she is then detained from 8am until 10pm.

Jamila Nabgan was arrested at her family home in Shush, Khuzestan province, on 19 October by officers from the Ministry of Intelligence. The authorities believe she helped her sister-in-law, the wife of Habib Nabgan Ma'soumeh Ka'bi, to flee the country in May 2008. Ma'soumeh Ka'bi and her five children were forcibly returned to Iran from Syria on 27 September (See UA 279/08, 10 October 2008). During her four-day detention the interrogating officers ensured that Jamila Nabgan and Ma'soumeh Ka'bi saw each other once, to pressure them both into confessing. Jamila Nabgan's husband, Ali Chaab, has gone into hiding: he was told that he might be arrested for the same reasons as his wife.



Jamila Nabgan had been arrested in May 2008 and questioned about her sister-in-law's flight to Syria, during her two days of detention at the Intelligence Ministry detention facility in Ahwaz. Her brother, Habib Nabgan, is a prominent member of the outlawed political party *Lejnat al-Wefaq* (Reconciliation Committee), which promotes the rights of the Arab minority in Iran. He was resettled as a refugee in Denmark in 2006.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Much of the Arab minority in Iran lives in the province of Khuzestan, which borders Iraq. The Arab minority in Iran have complained of discrimination, including restricted access to resources such as water, as well as forced evictions for government agricultural and other development plans. There were mass demonstrations in April 2005, sparked by rumours that the government planned to disperse the country's Arab population or to force them to relinquish their Arab identity. Following bomb explosions in Ahvaz City in June and October 2005, which killed at least 14 people, and explosions at oil installations in September and October 2005, hundreds of people were arrested. Further bombings on 24 January 2006, in which at least six people were killed, were followed by further mass arrests. At least 17 men have now been executed as a result of their alleged involvement in the bombings.

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.

According to Article 15 of the Iranian Constitution, "The official language and script of Iran... is Persian... However, the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to Persian." *Lejnat Al-Wefaq* was established in 1999 to promote the rights of the Arab minority in Iran, including linguistic and cultural rights, but the party was declared illegal on 4 November 2006, and a statement from the Ahvaz Prosecutor's office said that "membership and connection with that party will be severely confronted."

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

- calling on the authorities to end the daily detention of Jamila Nabgan;
- asking why exactly she is being detained in this way, what she has been charged with and when her trial will begin;
- calling on the authorities to release her unless she is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offense and given a prompt and fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
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
subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Intelligence

Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeie
Ministry of Intelligence
Second Negarestan Street, Pasdaran Avenue
Tehran

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

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 12 December 2008.