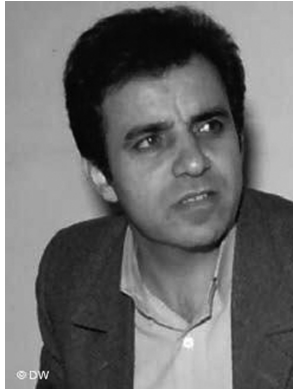


IRAN**Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand****imprisoned journalist**

Journalist & human rights defender Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, founder & chair of the Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan, has been detained since his arrest on 1 July 2007, accused of “acting against state security”, “propaganda against the system”, and “cooperating with groups opposed to the system”. Amnesty International is concerned that he is being held solely for the peaceful expression of his ideas.

Until 2004, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was the editor of a weekly newspaper, *Payam-e Mardom-e Kordestan* (Kurdistan People’s Message), which carried articles promoting the cultural, social and political rights of Iran’s Kurdish minority. A three-year ban was imposed on *Payam-e Mardom-e Kordestan* by Iran’s judiciary on 27 June 2004 for “disseminating separatist ideas and publishing false reports”; it has not re-opened since then.

Mr Kabudvand was arrested on the day the publication ban on his newspaper expired. His May 2008 sentence to 11 years’ imprisonment by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran was upheld last autumn. In mid-July 2009, he was transferred from Evin Prison to Mahabad Prison and appeared before the First Branch of the Revolutionary Court in Mahabad on new charges (19 July), accused of “propaganda against the system” through alleged publication and distribution of pamphlets on issues of Kurdish women. He has denied the charges.

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand has suffered from extremely poor health and medical neglect since his detention. In May 2008, he collapsed in prison and was unconscious for about 30 minutes. He apparently suffered a heart attack on 17 December 2008 and was not provided with adequate treatment.

Addressing the Head of the Judiciary, please call for the immediate release of prisoner of conscience Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and his activism on behalf of human rights. Refer to guarantees in the Constitution of Iran and to Iran’s obligations under Articles 19 & 21 of the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights not to use vaguely worded “national security” laws to curtail freedom of expression.

His Excellency Sadegh 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

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

Salutation: *Your Excellency* Airmail postage abroad: 98¢ Salutation: *Dear Sir or Madam*



Amnesty International
focuses on preventing and ending
grave abuses of the rights
to physical & mental integrity,
freedom of conscience
& expression,
and freedom from discrimination,
while promoting all human rights.

Our particular concern during Banned Books Week is to draw attention to writers, editors, librarians, publishers and readers who suffer human rights violations because of their work.

from the
**Universal Declaration
of Human Rights**

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience . . .

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information & ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 27

. . . Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. . . .

*Human reason is beautiful and invincible.
No bars, no barbed wire, no pulping of books,
No sentence of banishment can prevail against it.
It puts what should be above things as they are.*

Czeslaw Milosz
(from "Incantation")

Banned Books Week 2009
IMPORTANT NOTES:

Please do not attempt to write directly to a prisoner; in some countries there might be reprisals. Experience shows that the rarity of replies from governments does not mean our letters are being ignored. If someone does receive a reply, please send a copy to the AI address on the other side (top) of this page.