

## Appendix IV Torture in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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### **Torture and Ill-Treatment Systematic, Not Result of “Negligence” and “Carelessness”**

*Independent investigation urgently needed to establish the truth*

(10 August 2009) While Iranian authorities have claimed that abuse of detainees arrested for participating in peaceful demonstrations, or simply on the basis of their political beliefs, has been the result of “negligence” and “carelessness,” the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* said the abuse was systematic and reflected a policy of suppressing dissent, intimidating the population, and corroborating charges by producing false confessions.

“Instead of show trials of innocent people, there should be prosecution of those responsible for torturing them, and for the shootings, beatings, and ill-treatment that have resulted in numerous deaths on the streets and in detention,” stated Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the *Campaign*.

Two Iranian officials, Prosecutor General Ghorban Ali Dorri Najafabadi and Police Chief General Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam, have acknowledged the abuse of prisoners in Kahrizak prison. The head of the facility and three guards have reportedly been dismissed.

Documentation assembled by the *Campaign* and other human rights organizations, as well as credible media accounts, show that the abuse of prisoners has not been limited to the Kahrizak prison. It has also taken place at Evin prison and in other detention facilities in Tehran and elsewhere in Iran.

The abuse of detainees has been widespread, affecting as many as 2,500 persons who have been detained. The *Campaign* has reviewed reports by numerous detainees, many of which have been collected firsthand by the *Campaign*. Virtually all these reports include descriptions of treatment that is classified as torture and ill-treatment under international law.

The widespread torture of detainees in numerous detention facilities has been confirmed by photographic evidence, reports by family members who have seen evidence, as well as by released detainees who were tortured and those who witnessed torture. In some cases, officials have made references to [deliberate torture](#).

“These grave, deliberate human rights abuses were certainly not limited to Kahrizak, and no one should be satisfied by limited, strategic, and clearly cosmetic admissions,” Rhodes said.

The *Campaign* stressed the urgency of an impartial and detailed investigation to reveal the depth of systematic and widespread abuses and to hold those responsible accountable. The Iranian parliament [*Majlis*] has formed a committee that has been tasked with such an investigation.

The *Campaign* urged that the parliamentary committee be allowed unfettered access to all detention centers and detainees. It also called on this committee to invite independent lawyers and human rights defenders to assist it with its investigation. The *Campaign* also continues to call on the United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) to send special envoys to Iran to document and investigate systematic and widespread killings and torture that under international human rights law are considered crimes against humanity.

“As long as there is no independent domestic investigation with a credible international component by the UN HCHR, the truth will not be known and justice will not be served,” Rhodes said.

## **Tales of Torture, Violence Continue to be heard from Iran**

### *Judiciary Turns a Blind Eye to Torture and Kidnappings*

(30 July 2009) The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* continues to verify reports from Iran chronicling systematic torture and brutal treatment. A Moussavi campaign staff in Mazandaran, Majid Sh., is one of the latest confirmed cases of torture committed by government forces or government-sponsored groups. The accumulation of these crimes and their widespread, planned, and systematic nature, are indications that government actions since the 12 June elections could be raising to the level of crimes against humanity under international law.

Majid Sh. was returning from the Moussavi campaign office in the election district of Ramsar, Mazandaran soon after the elections of 12 June. On his way home he was kidnapped, blindfolded, and taken to a secret location by car. When he asked his captors who they were they called themselves the “foot soldiers of the Twelfth Imam,” a phrase commonly used by the Intelligence Ministry to refer to its agents. He was severely beaten, stripped of his clothes, taken to shower and hanged from the ceiling with his hands tied. His torturers then began to burn his body with a hot iron rod (see pictures). After twenty-four hours he was thrown back into the streets.

Majid Sh. was then taken to a hospital where local dignitaries in the city visited him. Despite the publicity his case has received in the region, there have been no

investigations or arrests made to hold those responsible for his kidnapping and tortures accountable.

In other cases, relatives of those killed are given false information and denials and the case of Amir Toufanpour is an example. With the government not prosecuting those responsible and attempting to cover up guilt, families are left with no options for justice.

The *Campaign* has been aware of Majid Sh.'s experience as well many others' accounts, and is publishing them as they are fully confirmed and documented. The *Campaign* stresses the importance of investigating crimes such as these throughout Iran. The proliferation of violence is pointing to systematic and widespread crimes against humanity being committed by the government.

### **Torture of Saeed Hajarian Threatening His Life**

#### *Disabled Reformist Severely Abused in Attempt to Force False Confession*

(27 July 2009) The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* appealed to authorities in Iran to halt the torture of Saeed Hajarian, a prominent reformist journalist and former presidential advisor who has been detained in Tehran's Evin prison since 15 June, and to release him immediately. The *Campaign* also advocated for urgent action by members of the international community to try to save Hajarian's life as well as hundreds of other prisoners in incommunicado detention.

"Detainees in Iran are dying on account of torture and ill-treatment, and considering Hajarian's brutal torture, fragile condition and lack of needed medical care, he may die unless the torture stops," said Aaron Rhodes, spokesperson for the *Campaign*.

"We are appealing to the prison and intelligence authorities to avert this tragedy, and we ask the international community to help," he said.

Zeynab Hajarian, a student in Pennsylvania, USA, told the *Campaign* that he is being daily interrogated under direct sunlight, in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Centigrade (104 degrees F), then doused with ice water, causing severe heart palpitations. Hajarian's health is extremely fragile, and he requires a number of medications as well as regular medical treatment, following being shot in a 2000 assassination attempt that left him confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak because of spinal cord injuries. But while he has been denied his needed medications, he is being forced to take what his family believes are psychotropic drugs to weaken his mental state.

The wife of Saeed Hajarian was able to visit him on 25 July and noted a yellow complexion resembling jaundice.

The authorities have made an oblique admission that Hajarian is being tortured, telling his family that he will be released “when our project is completed.”

News media have reported on the deaths of two detainees in recent days. The body of Mohsen Ruholamini, the son of a supporter of unsuccessful presidential candidate Mohsen Rezai, has been returned to his family reportedly bearing marks of torture and ill-treatment. Ruholamini, 25, was detained on 9 July. Amin Javadifar, a student also detained on 9 July, has also reportedly died in detention.

### **Lives of Detained Pregnant Journalist and Paralyzed Politician in Danger**

*Clampdown on media increases need for United Nations observation role*

(6 July 2009) With as many as two thousand individuals, including more than two-hundred prominent personalities, under incommunicado detention in Iran, serious concerns for their health and safety are growing. There are increasing reports of extensive use of solitary confinement and torture against the detainees.

While the Iranian Judiciary has announced a directive to criminalize cooperation with satellite television programs and “opposition” internet communication, authorities have continued to detain individual journalists, including Masoud Bastani, who was arrested on 5 July as he inquired about the whereabouts of his wife, Mahsa Amrabadi, a pregnant journalist arrested on 14 June, according to the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran*.

The life of another detainee, Saeed Hajarian, a prominent politician and journalist who is paralyzed, is in danger. For the past ten days, his family have not been able to verify his condition. He may be in critical condition and hospitalized. Since his detention on 15 June, his wife has been able to see him only once for ten minutes.

The *Campaign* called on the Iranian government to immediately and unconditionally release more than a thousand detainees who have been arrested since the 12 June election.

“In view of the inhumane conditions in Iranian detentions centers and prisons, Mahsa Amrabadi’s health and that of her unborn child are at grave risk,” said Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the *Campaign*. “Although no one has specific information about Mahsa, being held in incommunicado detention for this long is stressful enough to hurt her and her baby, not to mention possible interrogation and even torture.”

“Hajarian’s physical conditions and his health were already deteriorating before detention. It is cruel and inhumane to hold these individuals in detention, let alone incommunicado detentions,” he said.

Other journalists are being arrested in what appears to be an intensified effort to shut down independent information sources. On 28 June, journalist Mojtaba Tehrani, of the *Etemad e Melki Daily*, was arrested. On 30 June, Kambiz Nouroozi, legal secretary for the *Journalists Association*, was arrested, and on 5 July, authorities arrested Issa Saharkhiz, a journalist, founding member of the *Journalists Association* and the former director of the press department of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. According to information received by the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran*, more than 20 journalists have been arrested and remain in jail since the presidential election results was announced on 23 June 2009.

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi, the head of Iran's Judiciary, has issued a directive calling for the prosecution of individuals cooperating with satellite television networks and or active in "organizations entrenched in Internet sites," according to the *Hamshahri* newspaper. He requested all provincial judiciary officials to allocate special branches to review these cases and to initiate criminal cases on the basis of articles 498, 499, 500, 504, 508, and 510 of the Islamic Penal Code. According to this directive, the distribution of any piece of information or news through Internet or satellite networks would be considered a crime.

"As the government takes steps to silence journalists and cut communications with the outside world, it is all the more important for the United Nations to send envoys to observe the situation and to hold the Iranian government accountable for its legal human rights obligations," Rhodes said.