



amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Health/Legal Concern

3 June 1988

IRAN: Dr Ali ARDALAN, Head of Executive Committee of the Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation
Mohammad TAVASSOLI
Hossain SHAH-HOSSAINI
Khosrow MANSOURIAN
Hashem SABBAGHIAN
Ahmad ZANJANI

Amnesty International is concerned about the six men above, who were reportedly arrested on 31 May 1988, apparently after an open letter calling for an end to the war with Iraq was circulated. They are members of two organizations: the Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation, and the Freedom Movement. Both organizations had reportedly been actively calling for an end to the war in recent days. Additional arrests are believed to have taken place.

The first five named above also held government or public office in the post-revolution provisional government of Dr Mehdi Bazargan, who leads the only legal opposition movement in Iran. Although Revolutionary Guards are believed to have called at Dr Bazargan's home in his absence, he is not among those who have been arrested.

Amnesty International believes the above to be prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. Political detainees are not given access to legal counsel at any stage in their detention or trial. Prolonged incommunicado detention is common, and there are fears for the health of some of the above in view of their advanced age. Their whereabouts are unknown.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the arrest of these six men and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience;
- urging that in the interim they be granted access to their families and medical doctors where necessary, and seeking clarification of their whereabouts.

PM000043

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all *political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar
Hashemi Rafsanjani
Speaker of the Islamic
Consultative Assembly
Imam Khomeini Avenue
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Speaker Consultative
Assembly, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 ext ir;
212600 ext ir;
214242 ext ir;

marked for the attention of
the Speaker, Consultative Assembly

H.E. Ali Akbar Mohtashemi
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Interior Minister,
Tehran, Iran

H.E. Dr Hassan Ebrahim Habibi
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister,
Tehran, Iran

Telexes: 214231 miti ir;
213113 prim ir;

marked for the attention of
the Minister of Justice

H.E. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
Office of the Imam
Jamaran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khomeini,
Jamaran, Iran

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Note: Some appeals should be sent in a personal or professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 July 1988.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.