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## PHOTOJOURNALISM

## Iran Claims Two Detained Photographers "Confessed"

July 30, 2009

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By Daryl Lang

Iran's official news agency says detained photojournalists **Majid Saeedi** and **Satyar Emami** have confessed to enemy behavior, a claim immediately rejected by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Saeedi, who shoots for Getty Images among other clients, was arrested July 10. Emami, who was identified by the Associated Press as working for state-owned newspaper *Jamejam*, was arrested July 9.

State-run news agency IRNA reported Wednesday that Saeedi and Emami confessed to having ties with a movement seeking to topple the Iranian government and to sending pictures to enemy news agencies, according to CPJ, a journalists' rights group.

In a [statement](#), CPJ Middle East and North Africa program coordinator **Mohamed Abdel Dayem** rejected the supposed confessions. "Iran has a notorious record of coercing confessions from detained journalists, especially when they are held incommunicado for extended periods of time, as has been the case with Saeedi and Emami," Dayem said.

Getty Images CEO **Jonathan Klein** acknowledged Saeedi's detention [on July 13](#) and said the agency was working for his release.

As protests raged following Iran's disputed election, the government [banned foreign news coverage](#) of the protests and the ensuing violence. Many international journalists left Iran, while many local residents [shared news anonymously through the Internet](#).

The Iranian government continues to hold about 34 journalists detained during the post-election demonstrations earlier this month. Photographer **Tohid Bighi** was among those reported arrested July 11 in a [Reporters Without Borders report](#).




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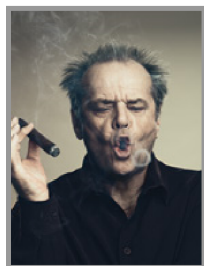
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