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## Iran press crackdown continues a year after disputed vote



President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. (Reuters/Sajjad Safari)

New York, June 9, 2010—At least 37 journalists were behind bars in Iran as of June 1, with an additional 19 detainees free on short-term furloughs, according to CPJ's monthly census of journalists jailed in Iran. Imprisonment figures have remained high in Iran since the government began its crackdown on critical journalism and dissent in the aftermath of the disputed June 2009 presidential election, CPJ research shows.

### More in this report

- [CPJ cites cruel treatment](http://cpj.org/2010/06/cpj-concerned-about-treatment-of-iranian-prisoners.php) (<http://cpj.org/2010/06/cpj-concerned-about-treatment-of-iranian-prisoners.php>)
- [Roxana Saberi: Speak out](http://cpj.org/blog/2010/06/we-who-are-out-must-speak-for-the-imprisoned-in-ir.php) (<http://cpj.org/blog/2010/06/we-who-are-out-must-speak-for-the-imprisoned-in-ir.php>)
- [Video Report: Imprisoned in Iran](http://cpj.org/reports/2009/12/video-report-imprisoned-in-iran.php) (<http://cpj.org/reports/2009/12/video-report-imprisoned-in-iran.php>)
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- [May](http://cpj.org/2010/05/iran-remains-worlds-worst-) (<http://cpj.org/2010/05/iran-remains-worlds-worst->)

Twelve months after the contested vote revealed deep domestic schisms and a government determined to silence its critics, Iran has taken tight hold on the dishonorable distinction of being the world's worst jailer of journalists. China was holding 24 journalists behind bars when CPJ conducted its worldwide census of imprisoned journalists on December 1, 2009. CPJ research shows the number in China has remained stable since that time.

"What began as a crackdown on critical journalism in the aftermath of the disputed June 12 elections has become a more-or-less permanent feature of Iranian society," said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. "With at least 37 journalists in jail and with the media under constant threat, Iranians are considerably less informed today than they were a year ago. We call on the Iranian leadership to reverse this misguided policy, to release imprisoned journalists and allow the once-robust public debate to resume."

CPJ has been conducting monthly surveys of journalists imprisoned in Iran in response to the government crackdown. The surveys, conducted on the first of each month, are snapshots of

[jailer-of-journalists.php](#)

35 jailed

18 on furlough

• **April** (<http://cpj.org/2010/04/furloughs-lower-iran-prison-count-but-dozens-still.php>)

35 jailed

18 on furlough

• **March** (<http://cpj.org/2010/03/with-52-journalists-in-jail-iran-hits-new-shamefu.php>)

52 jailed

• **February** (<http://cpj.org/2010/02/with-47-journalists-in-jail-iran-sets-notorious-re.php>)

47 jailed

those incarcerated on that date. (Seven of those now in jail were imprisoned prior to the June 2009 clampdown.)

In many of the cases documented by CPJ, Iranian authorities have filed vague antistate charges; other cases are shrouded in secrecy, without even formal charges being disclosed. Many of the detained and furloughed journalists are under extraordinary physical and psychological pressure to “confess” to crimes they have not committed, CPJ research shows. Many detainees have been denied family visits and access to legal counsel.

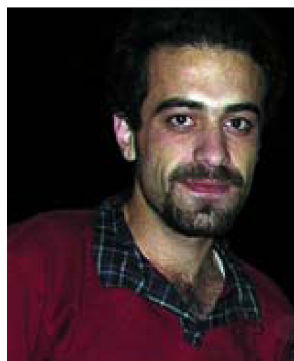
Those who have been tried have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Many have also been banned from writing or taking part in social and political activities. Others have been sentenced to internal exile, far away from their friends and families.

Most of the 19 furloughed journalists were freed in March for the Iranian New Year but have yet to be taken back into custody. Below are capsule reports on each journalist in custody or on short-term furlough:

## IN CUSTODY

**Adnan Hassanpour, Aso**

**Imprisoned: January 25, 2007**



RSF

Security agents seized Hassanpour, former editor for the now-defunct Kurdish-Persian weekly *Aso*, in his hometown of Marivan, Kurdistan province, according to news reports.

A Revolutionary Court convicted Hassanpour in July 2007 of endangering national security and engaging in propaganda against the state, one of his attorneys, Sirvan Hosmandi, told CPJ. The journalist was sentenced to death. A court of appeals overturned the death sentence in September 2008 and ordered a new trial on charges of “working for outlawed parties” and espionage, according to the BBC.

In November 2009, a trial court convicted Hassanpour on the new charges and re-imposed the death sentence, the BBC said. The death sentence was again overturned on appeal, in February 2010, and Hassanpour was eventually sentenced to 15 years in prison, according

to news accounts.

**Mohammad Seddigh Kaboudvand, *Payam-e Mardom***

**Imprisoned: July 1, 2007**



Farda

Plainclothes security officials arrested journalist and human rights activist Kaboudvand at his Tehran office, according to Amnesty International and CPJ sources. He is being held at Evin Prison in Tehran.

Authorities accused Kaboudvand, head of the Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan and managing editor of the weekly *Payam-e Mardom*, of acting against national security and engaging in propaganda against the state, according to his organization's Web site. A Revolutionary Court in Tehran sentenced him to 11 years in prison. According to a [report](http://radiozamaneh.org/jiar/2009/12/post_99.html) ([http://radiozamaneh.org/jiar/2009/12/post\\_99.html](http://radiozamaneh.org/jiar/2009/12/post_99.html)) by Radio Zamaneh, Kaboudvand is ill and in poor physical condition. He has suffered several ailments during his imprisonment, but authorities have refused requests for medical furlough.

### Mojtaba Lotfi, freelance

Imprisoned: October 8, 2008



RSF

A clergyman and blogger, Lotfi was arrested by security forces on a warrant issued by the religious Clergy Court in Qom. Authorities accused him of publishing the views of Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, who had criticized President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's positions.

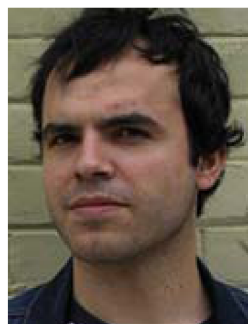
Authorities did not specify particular articles or publications in which the views were supposedly cited. Lotfi was convicted of several charges, including spreading antistate information, and sentenced to four years in prison, according to news reports.

The reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* reported that Lotfi, a veteran of the Iran-Iraq War who was disabled after exposure to chemical warfare, was granted "open prison" privileges after he developed respiratory problems at Qom's Langaroud Prison. Under the "open prison" conditions, Lotfi could leave the jail each evening and return early the next morning.

In April 2010, his "open prison" privileges were revoked because of his perceived affiliation with Montazeri's office, *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* [reported \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/13810/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/13810/). Montazeri died in late 2009.

### Hossein Derakhshan, freelance

Imprisoned: November 2008



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On December 30, 2008, a spokesman for the Iranian Judiciary confirmed in a press conference in Tehran that Derakhshan, a well-known Iranian-Canadian blogger, had been detained since November 2008 in connection with comments he allegedly made about a cleric, according to local and international news reports.

The exact date of Derakhshan's arrest was unknown, but news of his detention first appeared on November 17, 2008, on a Web site close to the Iranian intelligence apparatus. At the time, *Jahan News* reported that he had confessed to "spying for Israel" during the preliminary interrogation.

Derakhshan started blogging after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. A former writer for reformist newspapers, he also contributed opinion pieces to *The Guardian* of London and *The New York Times*. The journalist, who lived in Canada during most of the last decade, returned to Tehran a few weeks prior to his detention, *The Washington Post* reported. In November 2009, the BBC Persian service reported that Derakhshan's family had sought information about his whereabouts and the charges he faced and expressed concern about having very limited contact with him.

Derakhshan has spent more than nine months of his detention in solitary confinement at Evin Prison, according to an [article \(http://www.khodnevis.org/persian/\)](http://www.khodnevis.org/persian/) in *Khodnevis*, a cooperative Web site of Iranian journalists. *Khodnevis* reported that Derakhshan faced charges ranging from espionage to insulting sacred concepts, offenses that could bring the death penalty.

On March 18, 2010, in a widely published open letter to the head of the Iranian judiciary, Sadeh Larijani, Derakhshan's mother [complained \(http://www.kaleme.com/1388/12/27/klm-14610\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1388/12/27/klm-14610) about the judiciary's silence on her son's case. In an interview with the U.S.-funded Radio Farda, Derakhshan's brother, Hamed Derakhshan, also [said](#)

[http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f4\\_Hossein\\_Derakhshan\\_detention\\_no\\_trail/1987550.html](http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f4_Hossein_Derakhshan_detention_no_trail/1987550.html)) that Hossein has not been informed of his charges. He said Derakhshan apparently made "confessions" under pressure that he later retracted.

**Nader Karimi Jooni, *Jahan-e-Sanat*, *Sharq*, *Gozarash*, *Fekr*, and *Siasat-e-Rooz*  
Imprisoned: December 2008**

Jooni, arrested in late 2008, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on January 11, 2010, at Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court. He was convicted on charges of mutiny, espionage, and acting against national security, [according](http://www.kalame.org/1388/10/22/klm-8161) (<http://www.kalame.org/1388/10/22/klm-8161>) to the reformist Web site *Kalame*. He denied the charges and said the case was politicized.

Jooni, who was an editor and writer for now-defunct publications such as *Gozarash*, *Fekr*, *Jahan-e Sanat*, and *Siasat Roozi*, was placed in Evin Prison's Ward 209, where political prisoners are held. He is an Iran-Iraq War veteran who requires ongoing medical care, according to the reformist news Web site *Kalame*. Jooni's health was described as poor in an April 6 [report](http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1389/01/health_prisoners_report/) ([http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1389/01/health\\_prisoners\\_report/](http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1389/01/health_prisoners_report/)) by the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran and an April 28 [report](http://parlemanews.ir/index.aspx?n=10683) (<http://parlemanews.ir/index.aspx?n=10683>) by *Parleman News*.

**Mohammad Pour Abdollah, freelance  
Imprisoned: February 13, 2009**



RAHANA

On December 9, 2009, Branch 15 of Iran's Revolutionary Courts sentenced Pour Abdollah, a Tehran university student and a blogger, to six years in prison for "illegal congregation, actions against national security, and propagating against the Islamic Republic of Iran," [according](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091210_op_students_pouabdollah_sentenced_azar.shtml) ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091210\\_op\\_students\\_pouabdollah\\_sentenced\\_azar.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091210_op_students_pouabdollah_sentenced_azar.shtml)) to the BBC Persian Web site. Several news Web sites said he had been tortured at Ghezel Hesar Prison, which houses hardened criminals.

Pour Abdollah's blog has been disabled since his detention, but his last post can be accessed through another writer's blog. In that post, Pour Abdollah [writes](http://azadi-mohamad.blogspot.com/2009/03/blog-post.html) (<http://azadi-mohamad.blogspot.com/2009/03/blog-post.html>) critically about the political, social, and economic conditions in Iran and elsewhere.

Pour Abdollah's six-year prison sentence was later reduced to three years, according to an April 21 report by the Human Rights Activists News Agency. His lawyer, Mohammad Mostafaei, expressed hope in a recent [interview](http://hranews.info/1389-01-27-05-26-23/807-1.html) (<http://hranews.info/1389-01-27-05-26-23/807-1.html>) with Human Rights Activists that Pour Abdollah might be released on furlough or parole.

**Morteza Moradpour, *Yazligh*  
Imprisoned: May 22, 2009**



ADAPP

Moradpour, who wrote for *Yazligh*, a children's magazine, is serving a three-year prison term on charges of "propagation against the Islamic Republic of Iran," "mutiny," and "illegal congregation," according to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. An appeals court in Azerbaijan province upheld the sentence, the committee reported in February.

Moradpour was arrested in 2009 along with several other family members during a protest pertaining to Azeri-language rights in Tabriz, according to a [report](http://schrr.net/spip.php?article8344) (<http://schrr.net/spip.php?article8344>) by the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Two issues of *Yazligh* were used as evidence in the trial against him, the news Web site *Bizim Tabriz* [reported](http://btna.info/index.php/photo/4819.html) (<http://btna.info/index.php/photo/4819.html>).

Moradpour's attorney said the charges were politically motivated and fabricated, the news Web site *Tabriz Sesi* reported. The Committee of Human Rights Reporters said pressure on members of Azeri civil society had increased as the government attempted to marginalize the ethnic minority.

### **Ahmad Zaid-Abadi, freelance**

**Imprisoned: June 2009**



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Zaid-Abadi, who wrote a weekly column for *Rooz Online*, a Farsi- and English-language reformist news Web site, was arrested in Tehran, according to news reports. Zaid-Abadi is also the director of the Organization of University Alumni of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a supporter of the defeated 2009 presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi.

Mahdieh Mohammadi, Zaid-Abadi's wife, was allowed to see the journalist after he had spent 53 days in custody, according to the German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle. He told her that he was being held in inhumane conditions, according to the *Parleman News* Web site.

On November 23, 2009, Zaid-Abadi was sentenced to six years in prison, five years' exile to Gonabad in Khorasan Province, and a "lifetime deprivation of any political activity" including "interviews, speech, and analysis of events, whether in written or oral form," according to Deutsche Welle's Persian Web site. An appeals court upheld the sentence on January 2, 2010, according to *Advar News*.

Zaid-Abadi was transferred to Rajae Shahr Prison in February over his lawyer's objections, [according](http://www.etemaad.ir/Released/88-11-18/204.htm#174488) (<http://www.etemaad.ir/Released/88-11-18/204.htm#174488>) to the reformist daily *Etemad*. In an [interview](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/05/danger-of-aids-at-prison-infirmiry-says-zeidabadis-wife/) (<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/05/danger-of-aids-at-prison-infirmiry-says-zeidabadis-wife/>) with the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, Zaid-Abadi's wife, Mahdieh Mohammadi, detailed unsanitary conditions at the prison. "For a long time, the prison's water was muddy and unusable. With the water condition, he couldn't take showers," she said. "The prison food is not good, and the prison store does not have sufficient food supplies."

### **Omid Salimi, *Nesf e Jehan***

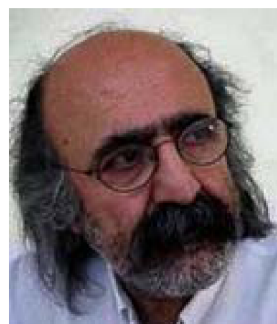
**Imprisoned: June 14, 2009**

Salimi, a photographer who worked for *Nesf e Jehan* newspaper in Esfahan, was arrested after being summoned by the Revolutionary Guards to pick up belongings confiscated during an earlier arrest, according to Human Rights and Democracy Activists in Iran, a local human rights watchdog. Salimi had been detained in December 2008 and had spent three months in prison on unspecified charges.

After his most recent arrest, Salimi was transferred to Evin Prison in Tehran, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency. No formal charges have been disclosed.

### **Kayvan Samimi, *Nameh***

**Imprisoned: June 14, 2009**



Samimi, manager of the now-defunct monthly *Nameh*, is being held in Evin Prison after his arrest in Tehran, according to news reports. Samimi called his family in October to tell them that he was pressured to make a false confession, his lawyer told *Rooz Online*.

On February 22, Samimi was transferred from Evin's general ward to solitary confinement after he objected to poor prison conditions, according to the Free Iranian Journalists Web site. A scheduled family visit was also cancelled.

RAHANA

**Bahman Ahmadi Amouee, freelance**

**Imprisoned: June 19, 2009**

Amouee, a contributor to reformist newspapers such as *Mihan*, *Hamshahri*, *Jame'e*, *Khordad*, *Norooz*, and *Sharq*, and the author of an eponymous blog, was arrested with his wife, Zhila Bani-Yaghoub, according to news reports. Bani-Yaghoub, editor-in-chief of the *Iranian Women's Club*, a news Web site focusing on women's rights, was released on bail on August 19, 2009, according to the BBC Persian service.

Amouee was being held in Tehran's Evin Prison, part of the time in solitary confinement, according to news reports. Amouee's wife said the journalist was denied access to his family and lawyer for several weeks, according to *Mowjcamp*, a news Web site supportive of the reformist candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

On January 5, Amouee was sentenced to 34 lashes, along with seven years and four months in prison. His wife told *Roaz Online* in February that Amouee had been sharing a 115-square-foot (35-square-meter) cell with numerous other prisoners. An appeals court reduced Amouee's sentence to five years in prison on March 7, according to *Roaz Online*. He was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$500,000, [according \(http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/27/klm-14614\)](http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/27/klm-14614) to reformist Web site *Kalame*.

Amouee was contacted by telephone on May 29, telling him to return to Evin Prison, according to a letter from his wife that was [published \(http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post\\_2136.html\)](http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post_2136.html) on the Free Iranian Journalists Web site. Amouee returned to Evin on May 30, the group said.

**Hamzeh Karami, Jomhooriyat**

**Imprisoned: June 19, 2009**

Karami was editor of the reformist news Web site *Jomhooriyat*, which was ordered shut by Iranian authorities on June 12, 2009, the *Asr-e Iran* news Web site [reported \(http://www.asriran.com/fa/pages/?cid=75104\)](http://www.asriran.com/fa/pages/?cid=75104). Karami was arrested a week later. A close ally of reformist politician Mehdi Hashemi Rafsanjani, Karami was coerced into making confessions that implicated himself and others, according to the [Reporters and Human Rights Activists \(http://rhairan.org/prisoners/?p=1029\)](http://rhairan.org/prisoners/?p=1029) Web site.

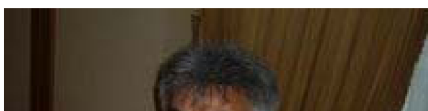
On February 27, 2010, he was sentenced to 16 years in prison and fined the equivalent of US\$600,000. Charges included "acting against national security," "propagating against the regime," "propagating falsehoods," and embezzlement, [according to \(http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8806030615\)](http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8806030615) the semi-official Fars news agency. Karami is being held at Evin Prison, the reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* [reported \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14434/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14434/).

An appeals court reduced Karami's sentence to 11 years in prison and a lifetime ban on government employment, the Committee of Human Rights Reporters [said \(http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article9598\)](http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article9598) on May 9.

Karami was released on furlough on May 14, but authorities demanded that he give televised testimony against the former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, [according \(http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/29/klm-19814\)](http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/29/klm-19814) to the reformist Web site *Kalame*. He refused and was sent back to Evin Prison.

**Issa Sahar-Khiz, freelance**

**Imprisoned: July 3, 2009**



Sahar-Khiz, a columnist for the reformist news Web sites *Roaz Online* and *Norooz* and a founding member of the Association of Iranian Journalists, was

Creative Commons arrested while traveling in northern Iran, the association said in a statement. His lawyer said his client faces charges of "participation in riots," "encouraging others to participate in riots," and "insulting the supreme leader," according to *Rooz Online*.

Sahar-Khiz has had a long career in journalism. He worked for 15 years for IRNA, Iran's official news agency, and ran its New York office for part of that time. He returned to Iran in 1997 to work in Mohammad Khatami's Ministry of Islamic Guidance, in charge of domestic publications. Journalist Ahmad Bourghani and Sahar-Khiz came to be known as the architects of a period of relative freedom for the press in Iran. After Sahar-Khiz was forced to leave the ministry and was banned from government service in a trial, he founded a reformist newspaper, *Akhbar-e Eghtesad*, and monthly magazine, *Aftab*, both of which were eventually banned. He wrote articles directly critical of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader.

The columnist has been subjected to constant pressure at Evin Prison, including being kept in a prison yard overnight in freezing temperatures without shoes or socks according to *Rooz Online*. The *Norooz* news Web site *quoted* his son in March as saying that Sahar-Khiz had lost about 45 pounds (20 kilograms). In an [open letter](http://www.sahamnews.org/?p=1647) (<http://www.sahamnews.org/?p=1647>) to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, published on the *Saham News* Web site on April 15, Sahar-Khiz asked the U.N. leader to visit political prisoners at Evin.

Sahar-Khiz was transferred in May to a prison in Rajae Shahr, near Karaj, [according to](http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/07/klm-20848) (<http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/07/klm-20848>) the reformist Web site *Kalame*, where he went into cardiac arrest on May 28. He was moved to Pardis Prison in Karaj three days later, the reformist site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* reported, but his precise medical condition was unclear.

#### **Massoud Bastani, *Farhikhtegan* and *Jomhoriyat* Imprisoned: July 5, 2009**



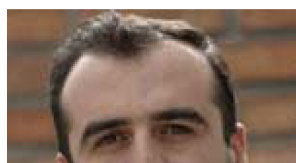
Bastani, a journalist for the reformist newspaper *Farhikhtegan* and *Jomhoriyat*, a news Web site affiliated with the defeated presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi, was arrested when he went to a Tehran court seeking information about his wife, journalist Mehsa Amrabadi, according to local news reports. Amrabadi, arrested along with two other journalists on June 15, was released on August 25.

Bastani had been editor-in-chief of the now-banned *Neda-ye Eslahat* (Voice of Reform) weekly.

Bastani was among more than 100 opposition figures and journalists who faced a mass, televised judicial proceeding in August 2009 on vague antistate accusations, according to news reports. In September, his lawyer, Mohammad Sharraf, told the online *Amir Kabir Newsletter* that Bastani had spent weeks in solitary confinement.

On October 20, 2009, the news site *Norooz* reported that a court had sentenced Bastani to six years in prison for "propagating against the regime and congregating and mutinying to create anarchy." An appeals court upheld his sentence on May 14, 2010, [according to](http://feed.parlemannews.com/index.aspx?n=11159) (<http://feed.parlemannews.com/index.aspx?n=11159>) the *Parleman News* Web site. He is in the Rajae Shahr Prison, the reformist daily *Etemad* [reported](http://www.etemaad.ir/Released/88-11-18/204.htm#174488) (<http://www.etemaad.ir/Released/88-11-18/204.htm#174488>).

#### **Saeed Matin-Pour, *Yar Pag* and *Mouj Bidari* Imprisoned: July 12, 2009**



A Revolutionary Court in Tehran convicted Matin-Pour of having "relations with foreigners and propagating against the regime," according to local news reports. He was sentenced to an eight-year prison term.

Permission by his family, ADAPP  
Matin-Pour was first arrested in May 2007 and released on bail. He was rearrested in 2009 amid the government's crackdown on the press. The journalist worked for *Yar Pag* and *Mouj Bidari* newspapers in western Azerbaijan province, in addition to writing his own blog, according to local news reports.

Matin-Pour suffers from heart and respiratory problems, and his family has not been able to secure a medical release for examination outside prison, according to the Web site *Advarnews*. Matin-Pour suffered severe chest pains on February 4, but prison authorities delayed medical attention, [according to \(http://www.savalansesi.com/2010/02/blog-post\\_5278.html\)](http://www.savalansesi.com/2010/02/blog-post_5278.html) *Savalan Sessi*, an Azeri human rights Web site. Matin-Pour's wife, Atieh Taheri, told the Reporters and Human Rights Activists that the journalist's health has deteriorated and he is being denied proper medical care at Evin Prison.

**Mohammad Hossein Sohrabi Rad, *Saham News*  
Imprisoned: September 2009**

Sohrabi Rad was arrested by Ministry of Information agents on charges of working with *Saham News* in preparing a documentary on prisoner abuse at the Kahrizak Detention Center, according to the reformist Web site *Asr-e Nou*. (The detention center was closed in July 2009 after evidence emerged of pervasive abuse of detainees.)

*Asr-e Nou* reported that Sohrabi Rad had been subjected to physical and psychological pressure at Evin Prison. Authorities transferred Sohrabi Rad from Ward 209, where political prisoners are held, to solitary confinement in Ward 240, according to news reports. A prison doctor said the journalist was suffering greatly in prison, [according to \(http://hrdai.blogspot.com/2010/01/blog-post\\_3603.html\)](http://hrdai.blogspot.com/2010/01/blog-post_3603.html) the Web site of Human Rights and Democracy Activists of Iran. He was married shortly before his arrest, according to the site.

**Mohammad Davari, *Saham News*  
Imprisoned: September 5, 2009**



RAHANA

*Saham News*, a Web site affiliated with presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi, reported that its editor-in-chief, Davari, had been detained. Seventeen days after his arrest, the journalist was allowed to contact his family, according to the *Tahavolkhani* news Web site. His mother said he was being held at Tehran's Evin Prison.

On May 16, 2010, Davari was sentenced to five years in prison for "mutiny against the regime," according to Reporters and Human Rights Activists. He has appealed his sentence, according to the same [report \(http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/12711\)](http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/12711).

His initial charges included "propagating against the regime," "congregation and mutiny for disrupting national security," and "creating chaos in public order." In the weeks after the June 2009 election, Davari had videotaped the testimony of inmates at Kahrizak Detention Center who alleged they had been raped and abused while in custody, according to the Free Iranian Journalists Web site. (The detention center was closed in July 2009 after evidence emerged of pervasive abuse of detainees.)

After Davari complained about poor prison conditions during a visit by a government official, he was sent to solitary confinement, [according \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12588/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12588/) to the reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*. Davari has been tortured and coerced into making false statements against former presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi, along with false statements recanting his Kahrizak Detention Center reports, according to an April 6 [report \(http://www.rhairan.info/archives/8747\)](http://www.rhairan.info/archives/8747) by Reporters and Human Rights Activists. The report said Davari has waged a hunger strike and has been denied family visits.

The Committee of Human Rights Reporters Web site [published \(http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article9410\)](http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article9410) an April 23



letter from Davari's mother to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in which she detailed torture of the journalist.

**Mehdi Mahmoudian, freelance**

**Imprisoned: September 16, 2009**



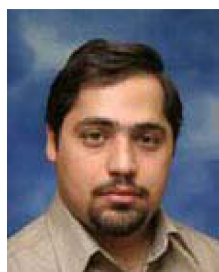
Street Journalist

Mahmoudian, a [blogger \(http://khabarane.blogfa.com/\)](http://khabarane.blogfa.com/) who wrote about politics, [was sentenced \(http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/12711\)](http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/12711) to five years in prison on charges of "mutiny against the regime" for his role in documenting rape and murder at the Kahrizak Detention Center. (The detention center was closed in July 2009 after evidence emerged of pervasive abuse of detainees.)

Mahmoudian worked with Emadeddin Baghi at the Center for the Defense of Prisoners' Rights. He suffers from a kidney ailment exacerbated by mistreatment in prison, the Deutsche Welle Persian service reported.

**Seyed Massoud Lavasani, *Shargh, Etemad, Etemad-e-Melli***

**Imprisoned: September 26, 2009**



RAHANA

Massoud Lavasani has worked for many Iranian newspapers, including *Shargh, Etemad, Etemad-e-Melli, Kargozaran*, as well as Mehr news agency. He was arrested at home in September 2009.

On December 21, 2009, he was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison. An appeals court reduced the sentence to six years in prison and 10 years' suspension from practicing journalism, according to an April 15 [report \(http://hranews.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=595:masoud-lavasani&catid=11:1388-12-29-22-51-56&Itemid=17\)](http://hranews.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=595:masoud-lavasani&catid=11:1388-12-29-22-51-56&Itemid=17) by Human Rights Activists News Agency. The group's Web site reported that Lavasani waged a hunger strike in March to protest his treatment by prison authorities. His visitation and telephone rights have been

suspended.

**Javad Mahzadeh, freelance**

**Imprisoned: October 22, 2009**



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Mahzadeh, a journalist and novelist, was arrested on his way to work on the orders of the Revolutionary Court's prosecutor's office, according to local news reports.

A political analyst and a literary critic who wrote for the Web sites *Iranian Diplomacy* and *Baran*, Mahzadeh is well-known in Iran for his novel *Take Away Your Laughter*. Authorities confiscated a computer from his home, according to news reports. No formal charges have been disclosed. Mahzadeh was sentenced to four years in prison on February 3, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency.

**Seyed Hossein Ronaghi Maleki, freelance**

**Imprisoned: December 13, 2009**



Ronaghi, writing under the name Babak Khorramdin, discussed politics in series of critical blogs that were blocked by the government. He was also a founder of an anticensorship group known as the Iran Proxy, which was launched in 2003.

Committee of Human Rights Reporters

Maleki was placed in solitary confinement on May 24, 2010, three days after he began a hunger strike to protest his detention and lack of access to medical treatment, [according to \(http://rhairan.biz/prisoners/?p=2631\)](#) Reporters and Human Rights Activists. Ronaghi's family told the organization that he suffered a severe kidney ailment that has gone untreated. No formal charges have been disclosed.

### **Shiva Nazar Ahari, Committee of Human Rights Reporters Imprisoned: December 20, 2009**



Facebook

Nazar Ahari was detained with Saeed Haeri while on a bus from Tehran to Qom to attend the funeral of influential cleric Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri. She had been jailed for four months in the immediate aftermath of the disputed June presidential election and was free on bail when she was rearrested in December.

The reformist Web site *Kalame* said Nazar Ahari was in solitary confinement at Evin Prison's Ward 209, where political prisoners are held. In a meeting with the journalist's family members, a prosecutor claimed that the human rights committee was affiliated with an armed opposition group, *Kalame* reported.

The Committee of Human Rights Reporters [reported \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479\)](#) on April 28 that Nazar Ahari and several other committee members were taken to an Evin Prison court to be informed of their charges. Among other crimes, she was accused of "propagation against the regime" in her work for the committee's Web site, and "actions against national security" for her supposed participation in two political gatherings in 2009. Nazar Ahari has said that she was covering the gatherings, according to the Web site of the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

Nazar Ahari appeared in Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court on May 24, 2010, but the judge recessed the proceedings. Haeri, who was furloughed in March, also faces antistate charges.

### **Kouhyar Goudarzi, Committee of Human Rights Reporters Imprisoned: December 20, 2009**

Goudarzi, a veteran journalist for the human rights committee, has been charged with *moharebeh*, or heresy, a capital crime, according to local news reports and the BBC Persian service. Held at Evin Prison, he has also been charged with propagating against the regime and participating in illegal congregations.

Visitors to the prison said Goudarzi's head was bandaged, although it was not clear how he sustained his injuries, according to the reformist online publication *Rooz Online*. The human rights committee said judicial authorities have sought to link the organization to external political parties. Goudarzi's mother [told \(http://www.hammihannews.com/news/9383\)](#) *Hammihan News* on February 25, 2010, that she was allowed to visit for only a few minutes after waiting for hours. Goudarzi told his mother that he is resisting pressure to confess to charges of heresy.

The Committee of Human Rights Reporters [reported \(http://schrr.net/spip.php?article8964\)](#) that Goudarzi was under pressure to reveal passwords to his personal e-mail and to the committee's Web site. The committee [reported \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479\)](#) on April 28 that Goudarzi and several other members of the committee were taken to an Evin Prison court to be informed of their charges. Among other crimes, he was accused of "propagation against the regime," and "congregation and mutiny with intent to disrupt national security."

After an argument with the warden at Evin Prison's Ward 350, Goudarzi was moved to solitary confinement on May 20, [according to \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/15748/\)](#) the reformist news site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*. Goudarzi's mother [told \(http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5615375,00.html\)](#) the Deutsche Welle Persian service that his health was deteriorating and that she was no longer allowed to visit him.

### **Mohammad Nourizad, freelance**

**Imprisoned: December 20, 2009**

Nourizad, a blogger and documentary filmmaker, was arrested after he wrote an open letter to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei urging him to apologize for the government's post-election conduct, along with an [article](http://mohammadnourizad.blogfa.com/) (<http://mohammadnourizad.blogfa.com/>), criticizing the head of Iran's judiciary, the BBC Persian service [reported](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091220_na_nourizad_detained.shtml) ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091220\\_na\\_nourizad\\_detained.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/12/091220_na_nourizad_detained.shtml)). Security officers raided Nourizad's home on January 5, 2010, seizing his computer and documents, [according](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/7247/) (<http://www.rahesabz.net/story/7247/>) to the pro-opposition news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*.

Nourizad had once written for *Kayhan*, a newspaper closely associated with conservative elements in the government, but he distanced himself from the publication after the disputed June presidential election. *Kayhan* has repeatedly attacked Nourizad and his writing since then, according to CPJ research.

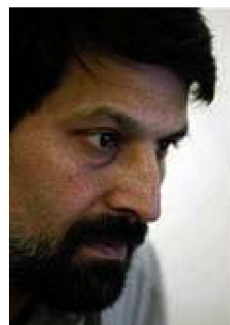
On April 24, Nourizad wrote another open letter to Khamenei from his prison cell at Evin Prison, criticizing the Iranian leader's treatment of citizens, several news Web sites reported.

Nourizad was sentenced to three and a half years in prison and 50 lashes by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Courts on charges that included "propagation against the regime" and "insulting the Supreme Leader, the president, [and] the head of the judiciary," the reformist news Web site *Kalame* [reported](http://www.kalame.com/1389/01/28/klm-16667) (<http://www.kalame.com/1389/01/28/klm-16667>) on April 28. His sentence was upheld on appeal on May 31, [according to](http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/14337) (<http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/14337>) Reporters and Human Rights Activists.

Guards at Evin Prison severely beat Nourizad on May 18 when he exited his cell for a regularly scheduled outdoor break, the reformist news Web site *Kalame* [reported](http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/30/klm-19961) (<http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/30/klm-19961>) on May 20. The journalist suffered a severe blow to the head, which a prison physician said had affected his eyesight, according to the same news report. After the beating, Nourizad was transferred to a cell that does not have a window, air circulation, or a toilet.

### **Emadeddin Baghi, freelance**

**Imprisoned: December 23, 2009**



Baghi, the prominent Iranian author, journalist, and human rights activist, was arrested after being summoned to the security division of the Revolutionary Court, according to the reformist *Ayandeh News* Web site.

When Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri died in December, the BBC Persian service aired a two-year old interview that Baghi had conducted with the influential cleric. Baghi was arrested soon after the rebroadcast. The government had sought to clamp down on publicity about Montazeri, who had criticized the conduct of the June 2009 presidential election. The warrant for Baghi's arrest said he was being detained to "prevent abuse of Ayatollah Montazeri's death."

Baghi's family has expressed concern about his health. Relatives posted bail in March in hopes that Baghi could obtain a furlough for the Iranian New Year, but authorities did not agree to his release, according to *Advar News* Web site, which quoted his wife. The report said that after serving 50 days in solitary confinement, Baghi was moved to a cell with two or three other prisoners. He has been allowed to see his children only once, and his access to a telephone has been irregular.

Baghi has been arrested numerous times in the past. In 2000, he was [sentenced](http://cpj.org/2000/07/journalist-sentenced-for-criticizing-regime.php) (<http://cpj.org/2000/07/journalist-sentenced-for-criticizing-regime.php>) to five and a half years in prison on charges of "questioning Islamic law," "threatening national security," and "spreading unsubstantiated news" in articles detailing the roles of intelligence agents in a series of politically motivated murders. He served three years in prison before being released. He was arrested

again in 2007 and served several months for "acting against national security," according to local and international news reports.

According to an April 23 [interview \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14190/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14190/) with his wife, Fatemeh Kamali, published on the reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*, Baghi has been informed of new charges related to a book he wrote 21 years ago. She said Baghi was in solitary confinement and denied access to writing materials, telephone calls, and visitation rights.

[According to \(http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/04/klm-20522\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/04/klm-20522) the reformist Web site *Kalame*, Baghi was moved to Evin Prison's general ward on May 22. His wife [told \(http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/01/klm-20189\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/01/klm-20189) reporters that his health has deteriorated in prison, and that he has lost 45 pounds (20 kilograms).

**Alireza Beheshti Shirazi, *Kalameh Sabz***  
**Imprisoned: December 23, 2009**



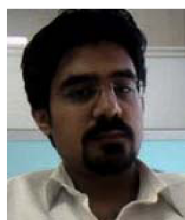
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Shirazi, editor-in-chief of the now-defunct reformist daily *Kalameh Sabz*, was taken from his home and brought to an unknown location, according to [international news reports \(http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/12/28/iran.arrests/\)](http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/12/28/iran.arrests/). He had been [arrested \(http://cpj.org/2009/06/iran-releases-some-journalists-vilifies-foreign-pr.php\)](http://cpj.org/2009/06/iran-releases-some-journalists-vilifies-foreign-pr.php) but released in the aftermath of the disputed June 2009 presidential election.

In a February 28 [interview \(http://www.kaleme.com/1388/12/09/klm-12687\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1388/12/09/klm-12687) with news Web site *Kalame*, Shirazi's family members expressed concern about a lack of information in the case. Authorities have barred relatives from visiting Shirazi and allowed only one phone call to them. His son told *Kalame* that he does not know what charges Beheshti faces and that he was being held in solitary confinement.

The reformist Web site *Kalame* [reported \(http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/11/klm-21274\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1389/03/11/klm-21274) on June 1 that Shirazi has been moved from Ward 209 to Evin Prison's general ward following a meeting with the Tehran prosecutor's office. His charges and his legal status remain unclear. He has been under great pressure to make a confession, the site said.

**Mostafa Dehghan, freelance**  
**Imprisoned: January 8, 2010**



Facebook

Dehghan wrote about social issues for several newspapers and the women's rights Web site *Change for Equality*, according to *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*. He is in Evin Prison's Ward 209, where political prisoners are held.

The Web site [Jmin News \(http://www.jminews.com/news/fa/?mi=39&ni=6132\)](http://www.jminews.com/news/fa/?mi=39&ni=6132) said Dehghan called his family in mid-January but said he did not know why he had been detained. No formal charges have been disclosed.

**Ali Mohammad Eslampour, *Navaye Vaght***

**Imprisoned: February 2, 2010**



Eslampour, an editor for the newspaper *Navaye Vaght* in Kermanshah province and the author of a [blog \(http://www.bamdad1.blogfa.com/\)](http://www.bamdad1.blogfa.com/), was arrested on February 2, [according \(http://hammihannews.com/news/8997\)](http://hammihannews.com/news/8997) to the reformist news Web site Hammihan.

He was summoned to the Revolutionary Court of Kermanshah on charges of "propagating

RAHANA falsehoods with the goal of creating public anxiety,” and “using abusive language through writing in blogs.” *Navaye Vaght* was supportive of Mir-Hossein Mousavi during his unsuccessful presidential campaign.

**Hamid Mafi, freelance**  
**Imprisoned: February 9, 2010**



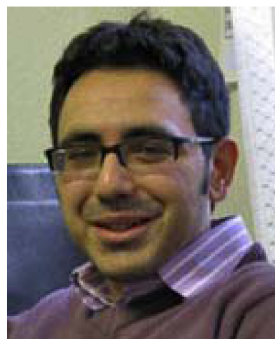
RAHANA

Mafi was arrested in the city of Qazvin, according to news site *Roaz Online*, but his whereabouts and legal status are unknown.

A political reporter, Mafi wrote for local publications in Qazvin, including *Hadis* weekly. He also wrote for national publications such as *Shargh* and reformist papers such as *Etemad*, *Etemad e Melli*, and *Kargozaran*, [according to \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article3745\)](http://chrr.us/spip.php?article3745) the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Mafi had previously been the political editor of *Farhang-e Ashti* newspaper in Tehran.

**Ali Malihi, *Etemad*, *Irاندokht*, *Shahrvand-e Emruz*, and *Mehrnameh***

**Imprisoned: February 9, 2010**



Facebook

Malihi, a journalist for several publications and a council member of the Iranian Students Association (*Advar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat*), was arrested in February, [according to \(http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8345\)](http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8345) a report by the Committee of Human Rights Reporters.

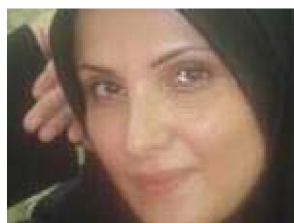
The Web site [Advar News \(http://advarnews.biz/organization/10449.aspx\)](http://advarnews.biz/organization/10449.aspx) reported that Malihi is in solitary confinement in Ward 240 of Evin Prison and has been allowed only one telephone call to his family. No charges have been disclosed. Malihi's lawyers have not been allowed access to their client, according to an April 20 [report \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14016/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/14016/) by the reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*.

*Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* and others [published \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/11087/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/11087/) a February petition signed by 250 civil society activists demanding Malihi's release and stating that he is a journalist who is not involved in politics. In a March 14 [letter \(http://advarnews.biz/organization/10631.aspx\)](http://advarnews.biz/organization/10631.aspx) to Tehran's prosecutor, Malihi's father detailed torture that the journalist has endured at Evin Prison, according to *Advar News*.

The first session of Malihi's trial was held on May 13, [according to \(http://www.kaleme.com/1389/02/23/klm-19259\)](http://www.kaleme.com/1389/02/23/klm-19259) the reformist Web site *Kalame*. He was charged with “congregation and mutiny against the regime,” “propagation against the regime,” “participation in illegal gatherings,” “publication of falsehoods,” and “insulting the president.” His next trial date has not been scheduled.

**Hengameh Shahidi, *Etemad e Melli***

**Imprisoned: February 25, 2010**



Shahidi faces charges of “propagating against the regime, mutiny, illegal congregation, membership in an organization that has acted against national security, and insulting the president,” [according \(http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/03/six-year-prison-sentences-for-omid-montazeri-and-hengameh-shahidi/\)](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/03/six-year-prison-sentences-for-omid-montazeri-and-hengameh-shahidi/) to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

Shahidi was previously arrested on June 30, 2009, and released on bail equivalent to US\$90,000 on October 31, 2009. In November, a court sentenced her to six years and three months in prison. She was

released pending an appeal.

On February 24, 2010, Branch 54 of the Revolutionary Courts affirmed her sentence, dropping only the charge of “insulting the president.” Shahidi was taken into custody the following day, [according to \(http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article7077\)](http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article7077) the Committee of Human Rights Reporters.

Shahidi worked for Mehdi Karroubi’s 2009 presidential campaign and has written about Iranian and international politics, human rights, and women’s rights. She is known as a reformist journalist and has written many articles in support of campaigns to halt the practice of stoning. Shahidi spent several days at Evin Prison’s infirmary, according to an April 26 [report \(http://www.sahamnews.org/?p=1978\)](http://www.sahamnews.org/?p=1978) by *Saham News*. Shahidi’s lawyer, Mohammad Mostafae, [told \(http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/06/klm-17656\)](http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/06/klm-17656) the reformist Web site *Kalame* that he has requested a retrial. *Kalame reported (http://www.kalame.com/1389/03/08/klm-21019)* in May that a fellow prisoner had severely beaten Shahidi.

#### **Mohammad Reza Nassab Abdollahi, freelance**

**Imprisoned: March 1, 2010**



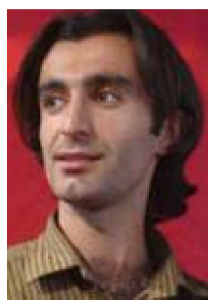
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Nassab Abdollahi, a veteran Shiraz-based freelance reporter for publications such as *Ham Mihan*, *Etemad-e Melli*, *Etemad*, and *Kargozaran*, took photographs of sealed ballot boxes he had discovered at a construction site in Shiraz in late June 2009, according to news reports. He published the photographs on his [blog \(http://nasabonline.blogspot.com/\)](http://nasabonline.blogspot.com/) on July 1, 2009. The photos were widely cited as evidence that fraud had occurred in the June 12 presidential vote; it appeared that the ballots inside the boxes had not been counted. Government authorities harshly criticized Abdollahi and [denied \(http://khabarads.ir/jonoob/archive/1388-4-21/ShowPage.php?View=07-88.04.21.jpg\)](http://khabarads.ir/jonoob/archive/1388-4-21/ShowPage.php?View=07-88.04.21.jpg) that the ballot boxes were related to the election.

On May 13, 2010, just two weeks after his arrest, Nassab Abdollahi was sentenced to eight months in prison on charges of “propagation against the regime,” [according to \(http://hranews.info/00/1336-1.html\)](http://hranews.info/00/1336-1.html) the Human Rights Activists News Agency.

#### **Abolfazl Abedini Nasr, Bahar Ahvaz Weekly**

**Imprisoned, March 3, 2010**



Street Journalist

Abedini, who frequently writes about labor issues, was arrested in Ahvaz and transferred to Evin Prison in Tehran, [according \(http://rhairan.info/prisoners/?p=1540\)](http://rhairan.info/prisoners/?p=1540) to the Reporters and Human Rights Activists. He was held in solitary confinement and subjected to interrogation without access to a lawyer, [according \(http://www.hambastegimeli.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4836:2010-03-29-13-27-58&catid=11:2009-09-22-08-59-59&Itemid=15\)](http://www.hambastegimeli.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4836:2010-03-29-13-27-58&catid=11:2009-09-22-08-59-59&Itemid=15) to an open letter from his mother that was published on several news Web sites. She said he was in poor physical and psychological health.

An Ahvaz court sentenced Abedini to 11 years in prison, *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz reported (http://www.rahesabz.net/story/13237/)* on April 6. Abedini, who was not represented by a lawyer at trial, was sentenced to five years in prison for “contact with enemy states,” five years for his “membership in the organization Human Rights Activists in Iran” and one year for “giving interviews to foreign media.” Reports by the semi-official Fars news agency allege that Human Rights Activists in Iran wants the “soft overthrow” of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Abedini’s sentence was upheld at a Khuzestan province appeals court, according to a May 12 *Kalame report (http://www.kalame.com/1389/02/22/klm-19158)*. His lawyer told the reformist news Web site that he was not allowed to

present an argument to the appeals court.

**Mojtaba Gahestooni, freelance**

**Imprisoned: March 5, 2010**

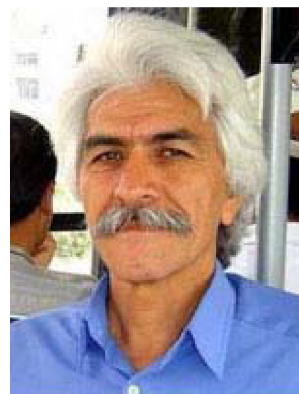


CHRR

Gahestooni, the author of a [blog \(http://sokhango.blogfa.com/\)](http://sokhango.blogfa.com/) about the care and upkeep of historical sites in Ahvaz province, was arrested by security forces at his home, [according \(http://www.rhairan.info/archives/6059\)](http://www.rhairan.info/archives/6059) to the Web site of Reporters and Human Rights Activists. Considered an authority on the topic, he has been critical of Iran's management of national heritage sites, the Web site reported. No formal charges have been disclosed.

**Akbar Azad, *Varligh* and *Parpagh***

**Imprisoned: May 25, 2010**



RAHANA

Azad, a prominent journalist from Azerbaijan province, writes for *Varligh* and *Parpagh* monthly magazines on the culture, language, and history of Azarbaijan, [according \(http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/14017\)](http://www.rhairan.biz/archives/14017) to Reporters and Human Rights Activists. The Committee of Human Rights Reporters said pressure on members of Azeri civil society had increased as the government attempted to marginalize the ethnic minority.

The [South Azarbaijan News Agency said \(http://www.sananews.info/habergoruntule.asp?bolum=961\)](http://www.sananews.info/habergoruntule.asp?bolum=961) Azad was arrested on May 25 at his home in Tehran and transferred to Tabriz's Intelligence Office. He was allowed to contact his family briefly by telephone, telling them he was being held in solitary confinement. No formal charges have been disclosed.

**Mahboubeh Khansari, freelance**

**Imprisoned: June 1, 2010**



Committee of  
Human Rights  
Reporters

Khansari is well-known journalist who has worked for several news outlets over the past decade, including *Sarmayeh* and *Kargozaran* and the Cultural Heritage News Agency. She had taken a sabbatical over the past year to study the translation of foreign-language news for publication in Iranian media, [according to \(http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post.html\)](http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post.html) the Free Iranian Journalists Web site.

She was arrested at her home in Tehran, the reformist news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* [reported \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/16467/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/16467/). During the raid, her house was searched and personal items including her computer were taken, news reports said. No formal charges have been disclosed.

**Azam Vismeh, *Parleman News***

**Imprisoned: June 1, 2010**

Vismeh reports on the Iranian Parliament for the *Parleman News* Web site, [according to \(http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post\\_01.html\)](http://www.free-journalists.com/2010/06/blog-post_01.html) the Free Iranian Journalists The reformist news Web site. *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* [reported \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/16467/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/16467/) that she was arrested during a midnight raid in which agents searched her home and took her computer.

She was previously summoned and questioned by the Ministry of Intelligence after the June 2009 post-elections protests. Vismeh has worked for *Sharq*, *Irاندokht*, and *Shahrvand* newspapers and the Iranian Labor News Agency. No formal charges have been disclosed.

## FURLOUGHED AS OF JUNE 1

**Saeed Laylaz, *Sarmayeh***

**Imprisoned: June 17, 2009**



RSF

Laylaz, editor of the daily business journal *Sarmayeh* and a vocal critic of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's economic policies, was arrested at home on June 17, his wife, Sepharnaz Panahi, told the BBC Persian service. She said that officers searched their home and confiscated videotapes, hard drives, and letters.

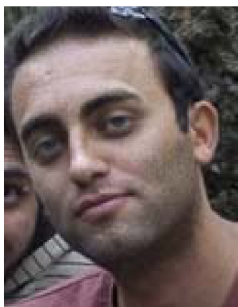
He spent 100 days in solitary confinement at Tehran's Evin Prison before being moved to a group cell, where he was denied newspapers, pen, and paper, his wife told the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Laylaz was charged with "congregation and mutiny against national security, propagating against the regime, disrupting public order, and keeping classified documents," according to *Movjcamp*, a news Web site supportive of the defeated presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

After a two-hour trial in November, he was sentenced to nine years in prison, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency and other online accounts. His wife told the news Web site *Kalame* that the "classified document" that was a centerpiece of the prosecution was actually a published and widely available investigation into the Iranian judiciary.

An appeals hearing on March 15 reduced Laylaz's sentence to six years. Laylaz was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$500,000, [according \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12668/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12668/) to the opposition news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*.

**Reza Nourbakhsh, *Farhikhtegan***

**Imprisoned: August 4, 2009**



Facebook

Authorities took Nourbakhsh, editor-in-chief of the reformist newspaper *Farhikhtegan*, into custody after searching his home, according to news reports. Nourbakhsh also contributed to *Jomhooriyat*, a news Web site supportive of the defeated presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

Nourbakhsh was among more than 100 opposition figures and journalists who faced a mass, televised judicial proceeding in August 2009 on vague antistate accusations, according to news reports. He was sentenced to six years in prison on November 3, 2009, although the exact charges against him were not disclosed. Nourbakhsh was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail, according to [Reporters and Human Rights Activists \(http://www.rhairan.info/archives/5876\)](http://www.rhairan.info/archives/5876).

**Saeed Jalalifar, Committee of Human Rights Reporters**

**Saeed Kalanaki, Committee of Human Rights Reporters**

**Imprisoned: December 2, 2009**



Saeed Jalalifar

Jalalifar and Kalanaki, who reported on child labor and political prisoner issues, were arrested after being summoned by the Ministry of Information, the reformist news Web site *Kalame* reported.

Jalalifar, Kalanaki, and several other members of Committee of Human Rights Reporters have been under pressure to confess to ties with the Mojahedeen-e Khalgh, an armed opposition group outside Iran, [according \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/9075/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/9075/) to *Jonbesh-e Rah-e*



(CHRR) *Sabz*. Two of the other arrested members of the committee, Kouhyar Goudarzi and Mehrdad Rahimi, have been charged with heresy, or *moharebeh*, a capital crime.

Jalalifar and Kalanaki were the first of several committee journalists to be arrested for their work in exposing human rights violations and government malfeasance. Jalalifar was unable to contact his family during the first 40 days of his confinement, [according \(http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article7803\)](http://www.chrr.us/spip.php?article7803) to the committee's Web site. The two were furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$100,000 apiece, [according \(http://hra-news.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=86:1389-01-02-16-45-27&catid=6:31&Itemid=7\)](http://hra-news.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=86:1389-01-02-16-45-27&catid=6:31&Itemid=7) to the Human Rights Activists News Agency and the reformist news Web site [Kalame \(http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868\)](http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868).

On April 28, the Committee of Human Rights Reporters [reported \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479\)](http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479), Kalanaki was charged with "propagation against the regime to serve the interests of opposition groups," and "insulting the supreme leader." Jalalifar was charged with "propagation against the regime," and "congregation and mutiny with aim to disrupt national security."

#### **Saeed Haeri, Committee of Human Rights Reporters Imprisoned: December 20, 2009**



Haeri was detained with colleague Shiva Nazar Ahari while on a bus from Tehran to Qom to attend the funeral of influential cleric Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri. Haeri's family was unable to visit the journalist until January 24, according to the *Amir Kabir Bulletin*, an online student news site critical of the Iranian government.

He was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$100,000, [according \(http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868\)](http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868) to the reformist Web site *Kalame*.

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On April 28, the Committee of Human Rights Reporters [reported \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479\)](http://chrr.us/spip.php?article9479), Haeri was charged with "propagation against the regime," and "congregation and mutiny with intent to disrupt national security." Nazar Ahari, who remains in custody, also faces

antistate charges.

#### **Babak Bordbar, Iran Photojournalism Agency Imprisoned: December 27, 2009**



Bordbar, 25, a photojournalist with the Iran Photojournalism Agency (Dourbin), was arrested while photographing street protests, [according \(http://www.rhainfo/archives/9347\)](http://www.rhainfo/archives/9347) to Reporters and Human Rights Activists. The reformist new Web site *Jonbesh-e-Rah-e Sabz* reported that Bordbar is being held in Ward 350 of Evin Prison.

Authorities have not disclosed charges or other information about Bordbar's legal status, although the Free Iranian Journalists Web site [reported \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/13842\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/13842) that Bordbar was sentenced to one year in prison. He was released on short-term furlough on May 15, 2010, according to the reformist news Web site *Kalame*.

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#### **Khalil Darmanki, freelance Imprisoned: December 27, 2009**

The arrest of Darmanki, a well-known literary critic who has worked for numerous publications, was disclosed in a report by the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Darmanki wrote for *Sharq*, *Etemad-e Melli*, *Asr-e Azadegan*, *Baya*, and *Armaghan Farhangi*, among other publications, the committee said. He is being held at Evin Prison but no formal charges have been disclosed.

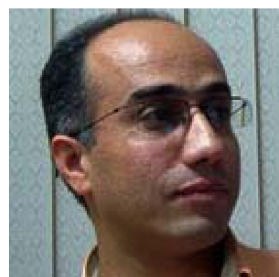
The BBC Persian service [reported](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100120_u04_darmanaki.shtml) ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100120\\_u04\\_darmanaki.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100120_u04_darmanaki.shtml)) that a group of more than 100 poets, writers, journalists, and artists had condemned Darmanki's detention. On April 30, he was among a group of imprisoned journalists to issue an open letter protesting their detentions. The letter was published on a number of Web sites. Darmanaki was released on short-term furlough on May 18, 2010, according to the reformist news Web site *Kalame*.

**Arvin Sedaghat Kish, *Farhang va Ahang***  
**Imprisoned: December 27, 2009**

Sedaghat Kish, a writer for the culture and arts magazine *Farhang va Ahang*, was the first of three journalists for the monthly publication to be arrested, according to CPJ research. Kish, who is also a musician, wrote for other magazines and Web sites, including *Harmony Talk*, [according](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100117_u01-17-atashi.shtml) ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100117\\_u01-17-atashi.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2010/01/100117_u01-17-atashi.shtml)) to the BBC Persian service.

No formal charges have been disclosed. Sedaghat Kish was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail, [according](http://mizankhabar.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=510:1388-12-19-09-39-56&catid=43:2010-01-09-15-51-03&Itemid=123) ([http://mizankhabar.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=510:1388-12-19-09-39-56&catid=43:2010-01-09-15-51-03&Itemid=123](http://mizankhabar.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=510:1388-12-19-09-39-56&catid=43:2010-01-09-15-51-03&Itemid=123)) to the news Web site *Mizan Khabar*.

**Morteza Kazemian, *Jonbesh-e Rah-Sabz***  
**Imprisoned: December 29, 2009**



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Kazemian has written regularly for the opposition news Web site *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz*, the site [reported](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/6594/) (<http://www.rahesabz.net/story/6594/>). He was arrested once before, in 2002, in connection with his work for two newspapers that were facing government shutdown at the time.

After serving 60 days in solitary confinement, Kazemian was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail, [according](http://zamaaneh.com/news/2010/03/post_12392.html) ([http://zamaaneh.com/news/2010/03/post\\_12392.html](http://zamaaneh.com/news/2010/03/post_12392.html)) to Radio Zameh.

**Kayvan Mehregan, *Etemad***

**Imprisoned: December 29, 2009**

Mehregan is the editor of the political section of the reformist daily *Etemad*. Authorities arrested him at his office, according to local news reports.

He is formally charged with membership in the opposition Nehzat-e Azadi Party, but conservative newspapers and Web sites have also accused him of being affiliated with separatist organizations, according to *Mizan News*. Mehregan was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$100,000, [according](http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8700) (<http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8700>) to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters.

**Omid Montazeri, freelance**

**Imprisoned: December 30, 2009**



Montazeri was sentenced to six years in prison on charges related to his participation in Ashura Day protests on December 28, 2009, along with his published articles and interviews with foreign news outlets, news reports said. Montazeri was furloughed in April on unspecified bail, according to news accounts.

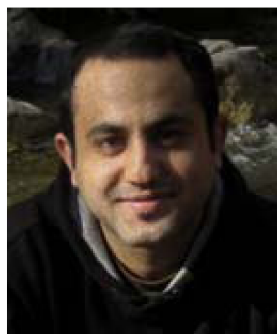
Montazeri was arrested a day after his mother, peace activist Mahin Fahimi was taken into custody, [according](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/7244/) (<http://www.rahesabz.net/story/7244/>) to *Jonbesh-e-Rah-e-Sabz* Web

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site. Montazeri's father was executed for his political activities in 1988.

### Mehrdad Rahimi, Committee of Human Rights Reporters

**Imprisoned: January 1, 2010**



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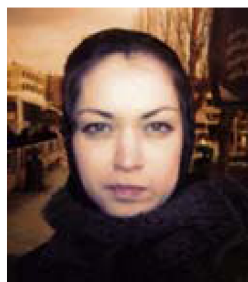
Rahimi and Parisa Kakaee, journalists for the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, were arrested after being summoned by the Ministry of Information, the reformist news Web site *Kalame* reported. Several other committee journalists have been arrested for their work in exposing human rights violations and government malfeasance. Kakaee was released in late February.

Rahimi told his family that interrogators said he would be charged with the capital crime, *moharebeh*, or heresy, *Kalame* said. The charge was formally announced in late January, according to the BBC Persian service. In a February 21 article, the Committee of Human Rights Reporters [said \(http://chrr.us/spip.php?article8542\)](http://chrr.us/spip.php?article8542) Rahimi was under pressure to make a confession.

Rahimi was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on bail equivalent to US\$100,000, [according \(http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868\)](http://www.kalame.com/1388/12/20/klm-13868) to *Kalame*.

### Mehraneh Atashi, freelance

**Imprisoned: January 11, 2010**



Atashi, a freelance photographer, and her husband were arrested at their home, [according \(http://www.radiofarda.com/archive/news/20100118/143/143.html?id=1932144\)](http://www.radiofarda.com/archive/news/20100118/143/143.html?id=1932144) to the U.S. government-funded Radio Farda and other news sources. Agents seized some of the couple's personal items, including their computer, news reports said.

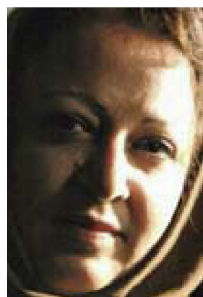
Atashi, 30, has worked for several domestic publications, such as *Soroush Javan* and *Hamshahri Javan*, according to the reformist news Web site *Kalame (http://www.kalame.org/1388/10/28/klm-8659)*, and her work has been exhibited in the United States and Europe.

Information about her husband has not been disclosed, nor has any information concerning charges against either of them.

Atashi was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail, [according \(http://www.feministschool.com/spip.php?article4356\)](http://www.feministschool.com/spip.php?article4356) to the *Feminist School* news Web site.

### Lili Farhadpour, freelance

**Imprisoned: January 21, 2010**



Facebook

Farhadpour, a veteran journalist who has written about cultural and social issues for reformist newspapers, was arrested by security forces at her home. She is also the mother of Behrang Tonekaboni, editor-in-chief of *Fahang va Ahang*, who was arrested on January 6. Behrang Tonekaboni was released on February 28.

No formal charges have been disclosed against Farhadpour. She was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year after posting bail equivalent to US\$90,000, [according \(http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12041/\)](http://www.rahesabz.net/story/12041/) to *Jonbesh-e Rah-e Sabz* Web site.

### Nooshin Jafari, *Etemad*

### Imprisoned: February 3, 2010



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Jafari, a reporter with *Etemad's* arts and culture section, was arrested shortly after midnight at her home [according \(http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8569\)](http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8569) to the Web site of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters. Security officers searched the premises and confiscated her computer.

Jafari is a founding member of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, although she has not been involved with the organization's Web site since she started writing for *Etemad*. No formal charges have been disclosed. Jafari was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year under a custodial arrangement, [according \(http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8721\)](http://www.schrr.net/spip.php?article8721) to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters.

### Naeemeh Doostdar, *Jam-e-Jam*

### Imprisoned: February 6, 2010

Doostdar is a journalist and poet who wrote for the arts and culture section of the conservative pro-government daily *Jam-e-Jam*. Prior to working for *Jam-e-Jam*, she worked with Farhang Radio and for magazines in the Hamshahri publishing group, which is owned by the city of Tehran. Doostdar was transferred to Evin Prison after her arrest, according to Roon Online.

The Web site of Reporters and Human Rights Activists, an organization that covers human rights abuses inside Iran, [reported \(http://www.rhairan.net/archives/3657\)](http://www.rhairan.net/archives/3657) that no formal charges against Doostdar have been disclosed. Doostdar was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail.

### Akbar Montajebi, *Etemad*

### Imprisoned: February 7, 2010



Facebook

Montajebi is an experienced journalist working most recently for the opposition daily *Etemad*. He has also written for numerous reformist and opposition publications, including *Sobh-e Emruz* and *Shargh*.

Montajebi was arrested at 2 a.m. at his home, [according \(http://www.irangreenvoice.com/content/1058\)](http://www.irangreenvoice.com/content/1058) to the reformist Web site Nedaye Sabz Azadi. In an interview with *Roon Online*, his wife expressed concern about Montajebi's detention. The journalist's wife has multiple sclerosis, and she said her condition worsened after her husband's arrest. Montajebi was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail.

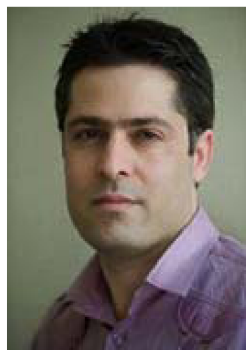
### Somayeh Momeni, *Nasim-e Bidari*

### Imprisoned: February 7, 2010

Momeni, a journalist with *Nasim-e Bidari* magazine and a women's rights activist was arrested by security officers at 3 a.m. at her home, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency. Momeni had previously worked as a reporter for the ISNA news agency, [according \(http://www.irangreenvoice.com/content/1058\)](http://www.irangreenvoice.com/content/1058) to *Nedaye Sabz e Azadi*, a pro-opposition news Web site. No formal charges have been disclosed. Momeni was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year on unspecified bail.

### Vahid Pourostad, freelance

### Imprisoned: February 9, 2010



Facebook

Pourostad, a well-known Iranian journalist who has published several books, was arrested at home on a warrant issued by the Tehran prosecutor's office, [according](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/02/arrest-of-journalist-vahid-pourostad/) (<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/02/arrest-of-journalist-vahid-pourostad/>) to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. His home was later searched and his laptop computer and handwritten notes were confiscated.

The arresting officers did not give his family a reason for the detention. According to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, Pourostad called his home at the end of February and said he was in Ward 240 of Evin Prison.

Pourostad served on the editorial boards of *Mosharekat*, *Yas-e No*, and *Vaghaye Ettefaghieh* newspapers and wrote for reformist newspapers *Etemad e Melli*, *Mosharekat*, *Salam*, and *Farhikhtegan*, according to another [news item](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/02/vahid-poorostad-possiblity-of-release/) (<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2010/02/vahid-poorostad-possiblity-of-release/>) by the human rights group.

Pourostad is the author and producer of a book series related to legal documents pertaining to the Iranian press. He was furloughed in March for the Iranian New Year under a custodial arrangement, according to the BBC.

June 9, 2010 4:38 PM ET | [Permalink \(http://cpj.org/2010/06/iran-press-crackdown-continues-a-year-after-disput.php\)](http://cpj.org/2010/06/iran-press-crackdown-continues-a-year-after-disput.php)