

Doc Number: EU000245

The New York Times

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears next to any article. Visit www.nytreprints.com for samples and additional information. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

PRINTER-FRIENDLY FORMAT
SPONSORED BY

August 19, 2009

Moussavi Claims Government Link to Rapes

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN (AP) — The opposition leader [Mir Hussein Moussavi](#) on Tuesday accused “establishment agents” of raping and torturing prisoners, adding a prominent voice to critics who had made the charge and openly defying hard-liners who had denounced the claims as slander.

“Those who committed the crimes were establishment agents,” Mr. Moussavi said in a statement posted on his Web site.

He said “the use of force and money” could not silence the accusations, but only a “quick, open and precise investigation of complaints by detained protesters and their families.”

The statement lent weight to the charges by a reformist cleric and presidential candidate, Mehdi Karroubi, that some men and women detained in the crackdown following the disputed June 12 presidential election had been raped while in government custody. His charges, and online allegations by anonymous victims, have shocked many Iranians, for whom rape is generally a taboo subject.

Government officials have acknowledged that some detainees were tortured, but have vehemently denied any sexual assaults.

Also on Tuesday, a reformist Web site reported that two prominent opposition activists had been hospitalized, one after being beaten by his jailers for refusing to attend trial, the other after a nine-day hunger strike.

Feizollah Arabsorkhi, a prominent member of a reformist political party, was severely beaten by his jailers at Evin prison when he refused to attend his trial, the [Iran Green Wave Camp](#) Web site said.

He was sent to Tehran's Baghiatollah al-Azam military hospital, which is controlled by the [Revolutionary Guards](#), an elite military unit that led the crackdown against protesters.

Ahmad Zeidabadi, a journalist and former student leader, is also in poor health after being forced to break his hunger strike on Monday, the Web site reported. He stopped eating after his Aug. 8 court appearance.

Mr. Zeidabadi leads a group of reformists who were once members of Iran's largest student organization, the Office for Fostering Unity.

Hundreds of people have been arrested since the election and the opposition says some of them died in prison from beatings and other abuse.

The two hospitalized activists are among more than 100 prominent opposition supporters who have been

put on trial this month on accusations of plotting to overthrow the clerical leadership through the protests.

Iran's top opposition leaders, meanwhile, said they were joining a new grass-roots reformist movement to present a united front against the government. The movement, Green Path of Hope, created by Mr. Moussavi, seeks to be a rallying point for the opposition to continue its campaign against the government.

An aide to Mr. Moussavi said that Mr. Karroubi and former President [Mohammad Khatami](#) were joining the movement.

[Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)
