

Update: 14 June 2004

Solidarity files: Human Rights cases by other Amnesty International groups



group 27

Amnesty
International
Victoria, BC

Solidarity
[Public Meetings](#)
[Urgent Action](#)
NANDEAN

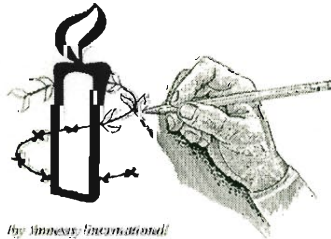
[EMRAN](#)
[WERAN](#)
Links

The
Swedish
Connection

Info about
Myanmar (Burma) case
of Group 79,
Sweden:
[Senaste burmanytt](#)

contact: [Group 79](#)
Malmö Sweden

also see: [WERAN](#)



by Amnesty International

At this year's Annual General Meeting of Amnesty International, Canada (English Speaking) the desire to communicate and co-operate was stronger than ever. As with Group 65's action to free prisoner of conscience [Thich Huyen Quang](#) of Vietnam, other groups, too, asked for support for their causes.

Group 27 will update the Solidarity site to the best of our ability and invites fellow members to link up.

Prisoner of Conscience (freedom of religion and freedom of expression)

- For: the Venerable [Thich Huyen Quang](#), Supreme Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam
- Concern: Ill-health and continued house arrest - release him and drop charges
- Issued by: [Group 65](#)
- Contact: Stan and Kay at group65@yahoo.com

Death Penalty Abolition

- For: People's Republic of China
- Concern: [Death Penalty](#) - impose moratorium
- Issued by: Group ?

[appeals](#)
[Petition](#)

Prisoner of Conscience (freedom of expression)

- For: [Siamak Pourzand](#), [Journalist in Iran](#)
- Concern: held in hospital in ill health apart from family - release him to his daughter in Canada and drop all charges
- Issued by: daughter

[Appeal 1](#)
[Appeal 2](#)

"Disappeared"

- For: Avdo Palic
- Concern:

"We have been working since March 2001 on the case of Avdo Palic, a

Human Rights workers under threat

- For: charged [Irene Fernandez](#),

Prisoners of Conscience (freedom of assembly and expression)

- For: [Khin Maung Win](#) and [Thet Naung Soe](#) in Myanmar (Burma)
- Concern: imprisonment -

SP00155

<p><u>Guest and Osmo Vallo</u></p>	<p>disappeared prisoner from Bosnia. Please visit our Palic page at mindswithoutborders.org. We would like to increase exposure for our action file [...] Thank you for your help."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued by: <i>Brigitte C. , AIUSA Group 23 in Houston, Action file co-ordinator</i> 	<p>who reported on migrant worker's plight in Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern: Fernandez' organisation threatened - drop charges against Fernandez, allow organisation to work unhindered • Issued by: <u>AICS (ES)</u> <p><u>appeal</u> <u>petition</u></p>	<p>release immediately, if not charged with recognizable crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued by: North Shore Group A 53 • Contact: airfortifshore@ipmail.com <p><u>world wide: appeal</u> <u>postcard: appeal</u></p>
	<p>Economical, cultural and social rights (freedom of movement, freedom to work, education, health, culture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: People affected by the <u>fence/wall within the Occupied Territories</u> • Concern: restrictions, discrimination, ill-treatment • Issued by: Group 27 	<p>Prisoner of Conscience (freedom of association)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: <u>Quin Yongmin</u>, tried to register a political organisation • Concern: imprisonment, ill-health - immediate release • Issued by: Group ? 	<p>Death Penalty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For: Death row inmates in Texas • Concern: death sentences • Issued by: Group 500, Austin (USA) • Contact: fmccarthy@austin.rr.com
<p>Vietnam: Prisoner of Conscience - <u>appeal letter</u></p>			<p>Top</p>

Your Excellency;

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, respectfully urge you to impose an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the People's Republic of China as a step toward abolition of the death penalty.

By your government's own admission, China's criminal justice system is fraught with serious and systematic problems such as corruption and inadequate legal training. As a result, police, prosecutors and judges often fail to adhere to proper standards in their processing of death penalty cases.

Amnesty International has documented many abuses leading to miscarriages of justice, including the use in court of confessions extracted under torture, the denial of legal representation, and the drawing up of guilty verdicts before trial by politically appointed committees who supervise the work of courts. All these abuses are in violation of international law, which China has said it wishes to work to respect.

We appeal to you to show leadership on this issue and act quickly on the demands by the international community, as well as from within China's academic and legislative communities, for reform of the use of the death penalty in China. We respectfully urge that you begin the process of reform by making death penalty statistics public and by eliminating the death penalty for non-violent crimes.

Name (print)

Signature

Address

Free Siamak Pourzand!

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Siamak Pourzand's daughter asks for help

At the AI Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, in May 2004, the daughter of 74 year old Iranian journalist Siamak Pourzand asked all guests to come to help free her father who is seriously ill in prison. "We want him to be released and get the permission to travel to his family abroad to the necessary cares". Contact:

Persian Journal
Culture

Siamak Pourzand: a case study of flagrant human rights violations

May 15, 2004, 19:13

Siamak Pourzand, (aged 74), Head of Majmue-ye Farhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran (The Tehran Artistic and Cultural Centre) and an occasional newspaper correspondent, is a prisoner of conscience. He is serving an 11 year sentence imposed after a grossly unfair and politically motivated trial in connection with oral statements he allegedly made about Iran's political leaders; Amnesty International fears that the activities of his wife, Mehrangiz Kar, a human rights defender currently outside Iran, may have exacerbated the treatment of Siamak Pourzand. He has urgent medical requirements for which he recently started to receive specialist care. It remains to be seen whether this will be adequate. Amnesty International (AI) is calling for his immediate and unconditional release with a view to a full review of the charges and sentence he faced.

pourzandcampaign@yahoo.ca

Arrest and incommunicado detention

Please support the appeal issued by Iranian.ws or keep a watch out for updates in the Amnesty International urgent action (UA) section. The last UA had been issued on 6 April and the International Secretariat should be contacted if you wish to write on this action.

[06 April 2004

Further Information on UA 298/01

Health concern/ possible torture or ill-treatment and new concern: fear for safety

IRAN Siamak Pourzand (m), aged 74, Intellectual, Head of Majmue-ye Farhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran (Tehran Artistic and Cultural Centre)]

On 24 November 2001, Siamak Pourzand was arrested in central Tehran, at around 9 o'clock in the evening. He had just left his sister's apartment. The family initially thought that he had "disappeared" as there was no official acknowledgement that he had been detained. On 7 December 2001 one of his sisters, Mahin Pourzand, was reportedly requested to bring a change of clothes for him to an office of the Edare-ye Amaken, or Bureau of Premises. The Edare-ye Amaken is reportedly responsible for the enforcement of accepted moral codes in places of work and other offices. When she asked where her brother was held and what he had been charged with, she was reportedly told that it was none of her business.

[...]

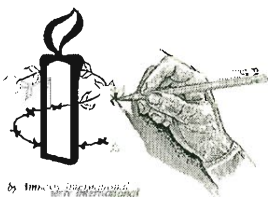
Around 31 March 2004, Siamak Pourzand reportedly suffered a heart attack that left him in a coma. He was not treated until another prisoner, the lawyer and human rights defender Nasser Zarafshan (1) went to the prison medical facility and insisted that someone examine him. Siamak Pourzand was taken to Tehran's Modarres Hospital for treatment and after 36 hours in a coma he regained consciousness.

Siamak Pourzand was again admitted to Tehran's Modarres Hospital on 18 April. According to initial reports, he was chained to his bed by his feet and denied family visits. Three days later, he was moved to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) in the hospital where he reportedly remained for 10 days and received specialist care. Following his return to the ordinary ward and according to information received by AI, Siamak Pourzand reportedly received a telephone call from Evin Prison asking him to give an interview to a prisons' publication to declare that he had never been ill-treated and that his trial had been fair. Shortly after this phone call, Siamak Pourzand had to be transferred again to CCU.

Siamak Pourzand is due to be transferred to Mahrads Hospital to undergo a spinal surgery. He is then scheduled to return to Modarres Hospital to receive treatment for his kidneys and prostate.

Other information:

Siamak Pourzand is the husband of lawyer and humanrights defender, Mehrangiz Kar, who continues to face charges in connection with her participation at a social and cultural conference, which was held in Berlin in April 2000. She is a former prisoner of conscience (see UA 103/00, MDE 13/20/00 3 May 2000 and follow ups)



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Please send telegrams/ telexes/ faxes/ express/ e-mail letters in English or French:
- expressing concern that Siamak Pourzand is a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs; and he should be released immediately and unconditionally;
 - urging the authorities to allow Siamak Pourzand to receive adequate medical attention and regular access to family visits whilst he remains in detention;
 - expressing concern that he has been denied the right to adequate and regular access to legal representation of his choice prior to and after his trial;
 - urging the authorities to end the practice of solitary confinement, in line with the recommendations made by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) following its visit to Iran in February 2003 (UN document E/CN.4/2004/3/Add.2), which noted that "such 'imprisonment within imprisonment' is arbitrary in nature and must be ended";
 - reminding the authorities that Rule 32 of the UN's Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states that close confinement should not depart from the prohibition on cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegram: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

Email: webmaster@wilayah.org (on the subject line write: For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Influential Parliamentarian

Gholamali Haddad Adel
Majles-e Shoura-ye Eslami (Parliament)
Imam Khomeini Avenue,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: + 98 21 646 1746

To show your solidarity with Siamak Pourzand, you could send him a copy of your appeal:

Evin Prison
Siamak Pourzand
Evin Prison, Chamran Highway,
Shahid Katchuyi Street Darakeh,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

source: Iranian.ws

Appeal 2

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----- **PEN Honorary Award for Siamak Pourzand** -----

PEN considers Siamak Pourzand to be detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a signatory, and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.



by Amnesty International

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please write a polite letter on your personal or institutional letterhead requesting that Siamak Pourzand be released - or copy the one below - and mail to His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei and to the Iranian Interests Section.

[Date]

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
c/o The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

I am writing to express my grave and urgent concern about the imprisonment of journalist and film critic Siamak Pourzand. As you know, on May 3, 2002 the Tehran Press Court reportedly sentenced Pourzand to eight years' imprisonment on charges of "undermining state security through his links with monarchists and counter-revolutionaries." I understand Mr. Pourzand was tried in a closed proceeding, that your government has offered no explanation of the charges or case against him, and that he may in fact have been convicted on the basis of statements made under duress while in incommunicado detention. I am particularly concerned for his well-being, as I understand he is of an advanced age and is in poor physical condition. I fear Mr. Pourzand is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which your country has

ratified. Please reconsider Mr. Pourzand's case and, in a spirit of humanity, facilitate his immediate release.

Sincerely,

[Your name and signature]

Cc:

Iranian Interests Section
c/o Embassy of Pakistan to the United States
2209 Wisconsin Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20007 [or the ambassador in your country]

Irene Fernandez

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APPEAL



Irene Fernandez
©Private

**MALAYSIA:
Human
rights
defender
faces**

imprisonment

Appeal started: March 2004
Irene Fernandez, Director of Tenaganita, a women's non-governmental organization (NGO), is facing a 12-month prison term after being convicted and sentenced in October 2003 on charges of "maliciously publishing false news".

She is currently free on bail, pending the outcome of her appeal. Her passport has been impounded, preventing her from taking up invitations to participate in international human rights conferences and workshops

...or you can copy the AI group's petition:



PETITION

**Amnesty
International**

Canada
1-800-266-3789
www.amnesty.ca
[date]

Prime Minister Dato' Abdullah Haji Ahmad
Badawi
Office of the Prime Minister
Jalan Dato' Onn
50502 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Dear Prime Minister Badawi;

We, the undersigned, urge you to drop all charges against Irene Fernandez and allow valuable citizens like her to carry out their important work in protecting the rights of everyone in Malaysia.

Please investigate the cases of abuse against migrant workers noted by Dr Fernandez's organization and bring the Printing Presses and publication Act into conformity with international human rights standards.

Yours respectfully;