

APPENDIX: Cases of Prisoners of Conscience

A prisoner of conscience is a person who has not used violence or advocated violence or hatred and is imprisoned or placed under other physical restriction (for example, house arrest) because of their political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, colour, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth, sexual orientation or other status.

Hengameh Shahidi, a female journalist, began serving her six-year prison sentence on 25 February 2010 after an appeal court upheld her conviction for charges related to her political and journalistic activities. She is held in Evin Prison, Tehran. Hengameh Shahidi who was an advisor on women's issues to defeated presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi during his election campaign and is a member of his National Trust party, was arrested on 30 June 2009 and released on bail in November.

Ahmad Zeidabadi, a journalist and spokesperson for the Graduates' Association which has promoted reform and greater respect for human rights, was arrested on 21 June 2009 and held incommunicado in Evin Prison until his appearance on 8 August 2009 at the second session of a mass "show trial". He was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in December 2009, five years of which are to be spent in internal exile in the city of Gonabad, and a lifetime ban on all social and political activities. At the end of January 2010, he was transferred to Reja'i Shahr Prison, where most non-political prisoners are housed. Despite his family having posted bail, he has not been freed.

Ziaoddin (Zia) Nabavi is a member of the Council to Defend the Right to Education, a body set up in 2009 by students barred from further study on account of their political activities or their religious identity. He was arrested on 14 June and held since in Evin Prison, Tehran. Zia Nabavi was sentenced in January 2010 to 15 years' imprisonment and 74 lashes. He is held solely for the peaceful expression of his rights to freedom of expression and association and because he is a relative of members of the banned People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), currently based in Iraq.

Student leader **Majid Tavakkoli** was beaten and arrested on 7 December 2009 while leaving Amir Kabir University of Technology in Tehran, where he had given a speech at a peaceful student demonstration marking Student Day in Iran. He has since been sentenced to eight years' and six months' imprisonment and is a prisoner of conscience. Iranian men around the world took pictures of themselves wearing veils after a picture of Majid Tavakkoli wearing women's clothes appeared on the website of a news agency close to the authorities, apparently intended to humiliate him.

The Committee of Human Rights Reporters (CHRR) has come under particular attack since the disputed June 2009 presidential election. The CHRR has been accused of links to a banned opposition group, the PMOI, which it strenuously denies. Its members have been arbitrarily arrested, and at least some ill-treated while others have fled Iran. They have faced harassment by Iran's intelligence services. Amnesty International fears that the Iranian authorities have decided to 'make an example' of

the CHRR by banning it and arresting its members. At the time of writing, two remained detained: **Shiva Nazar Ahari** and **Kouhyar Goudarzi**.

Prominent human rights defender, **Emadeddin Baghi** was arrested on 28 December 2009. His arrest followed the broadcasting of a two-year-old interview with cleric Ayatollah Montazeri, to mark the cleric's death earlier that month. He was arrested at a time of mass protests in Tehran and other cities to mark the Shi'a religious observance of Ashoura. He remains held without charge. He had a heart attack on 20 April and was taken to hospital. Once he recovered he was transferred back to prison in solitary confinement. His personal doctor cannot visit him, only doctors from the prison can see him and give him medicines.

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, a human rights defender and journalist from Iran's Kurdish minority, has been detained in Section 209 of Tehran's Evin Prison since his arrest on 1 July 2007. In May 2008 he was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran, later reduced to 10. He is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful expression of his views. In March 2010 he may have suffered a heart attack and the doctor in the medical facility of Evin Prison formally requested that he be taken to an outside hospital for examination. However this request has been ignored.

Cleric Ayatollah **Sayed Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi** is a prisoner of conscience, held solely because of his peaceful religious beliefs on what appears to be politically motivated charges. He is being denied the medical care he needs for a number of health problems, including Parkinson's Disease. On 13 August 2007, the Special Court for the Clergy (SCC) sentenced him to one year's imprisonment in Tehran followed by 10 years' imprisonment in exile in the city of Yazd, central Iran. While prison medical staff have reportedly agreed to granting him access to medical treatment, officials from the Special Court for the Clergy have prohibited this.

Ronak Safarzadeh, a member of Iran's Kurdish minority, is detained in the women's section of Sanandaj Prison, Kordestan Province, north-west Iran. She is a member of two non-governmental organizations promoting women's rights in Iran: the Campaign for Equality and the Azar Mehr Women's Organization of Sanandaj (which is affiliated to the Campaign for Equality). On 5 August 2009, the Appeal Court of Kordestan Province confirmed the sentence issued against her. She was sentenced to five years for acting against national security (for membership of the Free Life Party of Kurdistan, PJAK – an armed Kurdish opposition group), another year for propaganda against the government and seven months for illegally crossing a border. Ronak was acquitted of the charge of "being at enmity with God". In January 2009, Ronak Safarzadeh was further charged with participating in a hunger strike along with other prisoners in October 2008. Amnesty International believes that she is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for her work for women's rights and the rights of Iran's Kurdish minority.

Mansour Ossanlu is the leader of the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Syndica-ye Sherkat-e Vahed). He is currently serving a five-year prison sentence for "acts against national security". The charges stem from his peaceful work to obtain better conditions for workers in Iran and to end discriminatory laws and practices that curtail workers' rights in Iran. He had been

arrested and detained several times and severely beaten in custody. He was initially held in Tehran's Evin Prison but in August 2008 he was transferred to Raja'i-Shahr prison in the city of Karaj which houses criminals convicted of violent crimes. He has suffered from serious medical problems, including retinal damage resulting from beatings he received during a previous detention. His health condition remains a concern. In April 2010 he received a medical check-up at clinic outside the prison—however he was shackled hand and foot during the visit. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience who is being detained on vaguely worded charges in order to halt his efforts to build strong trade unions capable of defending the human rights of workers.