

For the attention of the Honourable Madam Navanethem Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Pursuant to our earlier discussions, I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention to the following:

Mrs Narges Mohammadi, deputy head of the Centre for the Defenders of Human Rights (CDHR), was arrested at midnight on 10 June 2010 before the weeping eyes of her three-year-old twins. It is shocking that the security forces produced a letter according to which they had the authority to enter and search Mrs Mohammadi's house and, if necessary, arrest her. Such conduct and procedure is contrary to the provisions contained in the Penal Code. Furthermore, it demonstrates the Judiciary's lack of independence, because arrest warrants must be issued by a Judicial officer; security officials do not have the right to embark on an individual's arrest directly and at their own discretion. Moreover, it should be noted that Mrs Mohammadi is in need of medical attention since she suffers from pulmonary embolism. Therefore, her continued detention and denial of medical treatment would place her health in serious jeopardy.

Also, Mr Abdolreza Tajik, a journalist colleague of the CDHR, was arrested on the street on 11 June 2010 as he was leaving his office. This is the third time the aforementioned has been arrested in the space of one year.

Both these individuals had been threatened by security forces earlier and told that they would be arrested if they continued their human rights activities and cooperation with the CDHR.

Therefore, I would like to, once again, draw Your Excellency's attention to the restrictions imposed by the government of the Islamic Republic on human rights defenders. In addition to the two aforementioned individuals, I also wish to highlight the cases of other human rights activists, including Mohammad Sadegh Kaboudvand, Emadeddin Baghi, Mohammad Oliya'ifar and many more who are held in detention merely for engaging in human rights activities. The continuation of such circumstances will lead to a growing violation of human rights, escalation of the current tension in Iranian society and intensification of the social crises in the country.

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cc: The Honourable UN Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detentions; The Honourable UN Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders