

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

IRAN

FARZAD KAMANGER, an Iranian teacher, has been brutally and repeatedly tortured since his arrest in 2006 and is now facing the imminent possibility of execution. He was sentenced to death by the Iranian Revolutionary Court on February 25, 2008, charged with “endangering national security” and “enmity against God.” According to his lawyer, Khalil Bahramian, who was not permitted to defend him, Farzad’s trial took place in secret, lasted only minutes, and failed to meet Iranian and international standards of fairness. Education International, which has featured his case, reports that Kamanger worked for 12 years as a teacher in the city of Kamyaran, Iran, before he was arrested and placed in detention. He also sat on the governing board of both a local environmentalist group and the local branch of the teachers association. Kamanger wrote actively for the monthly journal *Royan*, a publication of the Department of Education of Kamyaran. He was also a writer with a local human rights organization that documents human rights abuses in Kurdistan and other provinces.

ESHA MOMENI, a US–Iranian student, was recently held for three weeks in an Iranian prison and is currently being prevented from leaving the country. Momeni, a master’s student at California State University at Northridge, was working in Iran on a documentary about Iranian feminists when she was pulled over and arrested for supposed traffic offenses on October 15, 2008. She was held in Iran’s Evin prison where she was charged with “undermining national security and spreading propaganda against the republic”

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of December 11, 2008.

as a result of her interviews with individuals involved in the One Million Signatures campaign for women's rights. Now released on bail, Momeni has been told that she can return to the United States prior to her trial, but the *Los Angeles Times* has reported that she has been prevented from doing so by authorities who have continued to withhold her passport.

Appeals for both Kamanger and Momeni to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed
'Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street—
Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: info@leader.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi
Shahrudi
Head of the Judiciary
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh
Qazaiyeh/Office of the
Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave.,

South of Serah-e Jomhour
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir
(In the subject line write:
FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeie
Minister of Intelligence
Ministry of Intelligence
Second Negarestan Street,
Pasdaran Avenue
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

RUSSIA

CARINE CLÉMENT, a French sociologist working at the Academy of Sciences in Russia, was attacked in Moscow on November 13, 2008. According to an article in the *Le Monde*, her attackers stabbed her with a syringe while she was on her way to a public meeting of activists. This was the third time that Clément had been the victim of anonymous acts of aggression in the preceding three weeks. It coincides with a spate of attacks on Russian activists and trade unionists in recent months. The same day that Clément was attacked,

ALEXEI ETMANOV, leader of the trade union at the Ford–Vsevolozhsk plant, and **MIKHAIL BEKETOV**, leader of the movement to defend the Khimki Forest, were also attacked by unnamed assailants. Beketov was severely beaten and is currently in a coma. The coincidence of these attacks indicates the existence of an organized campaign of intimidation against social activists in Russia, which has combined with a spate of attacks on foreigners (one of Clément’s attackers reportedly told her to “leave here”). Clément, who runs the Institute of Collective Action, said in a letter to the *Humanité* newspaper of the attacks, that “hundreds of activists, working more or less anonymously for causes related to housing, work, anti-corruption, ecology, and land rights, in the majority of regions in Russia, have been affected by these methods.”

Appeals to:

Chief of the Supreme Court of
the Russian Federation
Vyacheslav Lebedev
15, Povarskaya Street
Moscow 121260
Russia
Email: lebedev@vsrf.ru
Tel: (+7-495) 924-2347

Human Rights Commissioner
of the Russian Federation
Vladimir Lukin
47, Myasnitskaya Street
Moscow 107084
Russia
E-mail: press-sl@ropnet.ru
Tel.: (+7-495) 207-1922
Fax: (+7-495) 207-3969

Chairman of the Civil Society
Institutions and Human Rights
Council under the President
of the Russian Federation
Ella Pamfilova
4, Staraya Square
Moscow 103132
Russia
Tel.: (+7-495) 206-4914
E-mail:
spravka@sovetpamfilova.ru

UPDATES

We are pleased to report that **MEHDI ZAKERIAN**, the detained Iranian professor featured in our previous issue and on whose behalf we

launched a petition campaign, has recently been freed and allowed to leave the country to take up his visiting scholar position at Pennsylvania State University.

EMMADEDDIN BAGHI, a prominent Iranian human rights defender whom we have featured in several previous issues, has also finally been released after serving his one-year sentence in Tehran's Evin prison. However, a three-year sentence he received in July 2007 for "publicity in favor of the regime's opponents" is still under review, and he faces new charges relating to his criticism of the prison authorities' treatment of human rights defender Sayed Ali Akbar Mousavi-Kho'ini in 2006.

AMIN GHAZAEI has been released on \$50,000 bail and is awaiting trial in Iran.

'**ABDULLAH AL-HAMID** has also been released after serving his four-month sentence in Saudi Arabia for "incitement to protest."

The case of **ADAM HABIB**, the South African scholar featured in our Spring 2008 issue after he was denied a visa to enter the United States to attend several conferences, has been reviewed by federal judge George O'Toole Jr., who has ruled that the State Department's justification for the visa denial on the basis that Habib had "engaged in terrorist activities" has been insufficiently substantiated. This is an important initial victory, both for Habib and others denied visas without explanation, for it introduces a precedent of judicial oversight of consular decisions.

Meanwhile, the following scholars remain in prison: **KO AUNG HTUN** (Burma), **IGOR SUTYAGIN** (Russia), **ZHENG YICHUN** (China), **XU ZERONG** (China), **LÜ GENGSONG** (China), **USSAMA AL-MULLA** (Iraq), **DRS. ARASH** and **KAMIAR ALAEI** (Iran), **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI** (Iran). Their details, as well as means to support them, can be found on our website at <www.socres.org/endangeredscholars>.

—Written by John Clegg