

Iran: 3rd Campaign for Hassanpour & Butimar

Contributed by DI Monitoring & Investigation Committee
Wednesday, 16 April 2008
Last Updated Monday, 10 November 2008

Iran upholds death sentences for Mr. Adnan Hassanpour and Mr. Abdel Wahd (Hiwa) Butimar.

Result of DI's 3rd campaign / Latest news:

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On September 4, 2008, the Tehran Supreme Court overturned the death sentence pronounced against the journalist Adnan Hassanpour on July 9, 2007, because the judgment could not consider Mr. Hassanpour as a "moraheb" (an enemy of God). His case is sent back to the revolutionary tribunal in the city of Sanandaj.

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DI extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to DI member organisations, DI Defenders, subscribers, supporters and friends for their assistance, sending letters or otherwise supported the campaigns.

- DI is still concerned about Mr. Hassanpour's retrial on charges of "working for outlawed parties" and "espionage". He is facing serious charges that may even result in 20 years imprisonment.

- Please

take action and support our 4th Campaign for Hassanpour & Butimar.

DI campaign 3: Iran upholds death sentences for Mr. Adnan Hassanpour and Mr. Abdel Wahd (Hiwa) Butimar. Name: Adnan Hassanpour

Sex: Male

Age: 27

Name: Abdel Wahd (Hiwa) Butimar

Sex: Male

Age: 29

Authorities: Iranian

Category: Death sentence / torture / incommunicado detention

The case:

According to information received by Defend International (April 2008) an Iranian revolutionary court in the town of Marivan has sentenced the Kurdish activist Mr. Abdel Wahd (also known as Hiwa) Butimar to death for the second time after the supreme court quashed the original hanging verdict and ordered a new trial. The court in western Kordestan province found the 29-year-old environmental activist guilty of "moharebeh" (being an enemy of god).

In a separate ruling, the Supreme Court has quashed a death sentence against the 26-year-old journalist Mr. Adnan Hasanpoor accused of espionage and imprisoned since January 2007. Mr. Hasanpoor has denied any systematic ties with outlawed political groups, and he awaited a judiciary ruling for a retrial.

The death sentences of Hasanpoor and Butimar were condemned in Europe and raised the concern of press and human rights organisations worldwide.

DI Demands:

- Defend International expresses deepest concern regarding the confirmation of the death sentence of Mr. Hasanpoor and Mr. Butimar, as it appears to be directly aimed at sanctioning their activities in favour of human rights.

- The organizations recall that numerous United Nations bodies, including the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, have called for the abolition of capital punishment.

- International law

The ICCPR states:

Article 6.1: Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

Article 6.2: In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to the provisions of the present Covenant and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide...

This can obviously in no way encompass the

have access to adequate medical treatment and put an end to all acts of harassment against all Iranian human rights defenders.

Furthermore I urge you to conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, especially its Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels", Article 6 (b) which stipulates that "everyone has the right [...] freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms", as well as Article 12(2), which provides that "the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

Finally I urge you to ensure in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international and regional human rights instruments ratified by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I hope for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours respectfully,

President

His
Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
The
Presidency, Palestine Avenue,

Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran,
Islamic
Republic of Iran,
Fax:
+ 98.21.649.5880,
E-mail:
dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir;

Your Excellency,

I am writing you to express my deepest concern regarding the uphold of death sentences for Mr. Adnan Hasanpoor and Abdel Wahid (Hiwa) Butimar.

I urge you to commute those death sentences immediately and to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Hasanpoor and Mr. Butimar.

I call on you to release them immediately and unconditionally since their detention is arbitrary, as it only seems to sanction their human rights activities. I also urge you to ensure that they have access to adequate medical treatment and put an end to all acts of harassment against all Iranian human rights defenders.

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Yours respectfully,

Head
of the Judiciary,
His
Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi,
Ministry
of Justice,
Park-e
Shahr,
Tehran,
Islamic
Republic of Iran,
Fax:
+98.21.879.6671 / +98 21 3 311 6567,
Email:
lrjpr@iranjudiciary.com;

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Yours respectfully,

Minister
of Foreign Affairs,
His
Excellency Mr. Manuchehr Motaki,
Ministry
of Foreign Affairs,
Sheikh
Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av,
Tehran,
Islamic
Republic of Iran,
Fax:
+ 98.21.390.1999,
Email:
matbuat@mfa.gov;

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Yours respectfully,

Permanent
Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Chemin
du Petit-Saconnex 28,
1209
Geneva,
Switzerland,
Fax:
+41 22 7330203,
Email:
mission.iran@ties.itu.int;

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Yours respectfully,

Ambassador
Mr. Ahani,
Embassy
of Iran in Brussels,
avenue
Franklin Roosevelt, 15 A.
1050 Bruxelles,
Belgium,
Fax:
+ 32 2 762 39 15.

Email:
iran-embassy@yahoo.com.

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