

Appendix I

Violations of the Right to Peacefully Demonstrate and Assemble

The Death of Amir Toufanpour

On 15 June 2009, Amir Hossein Toufanpour, born in 1978 and father of a 7-year-old daughter, was around Azadi square with his brother. Around 8:30 at night, noticing the noise and conflict in the street, he left his brother, who was on a motorcycle, to get closer to the scene and find out what was going on. His brother, who at first was waiting nearby, got farther from the scene as he saw some shooting taking place. He waited for his brother somewhere not far, but Amir never showed up. He went home and called Amir's cell phone, but there was no answer. Close to the end of the night an anonymous person called his mother and tells her that Amir was shot in the arm and taken to the Rasoul Akram hospital. His mother and other family members look for him in that hospital and others that night and the following days, but to no avail. Feeling disappointed, they go to the Forensic Medicine department on Friday, 19 June and see his picture among those killed.

To give Amir's body to the family, the Revolutionary Court mentions a requirement of 5 to 10,000,000 Tomans (approx. \$5-10,000) for the expense of the bullets used, but then agree to not require the money as Amir's mother was able to prove that he was an ordinary person and apolitical. To get his body, the family had to promise that they would not hold any public or private memorial service for him (neither in a mosque nor at home). His body showed multiple injuries: shots in his arm, side and back, bruises on the back of his neck, a gash on the back of his head which was filled with cotton, a full fracture on the arm where he was shot, and signs of a broken nose.

On 31 June, Amir was buried in Behesht Zahra cemetery (Section 233, Row 152, No. 32) and judicial authorities promised his family, especially his mother, to bring the killer or killers to justice. They told the family that they should only follow up on this case through legal measures and by doing so might be able to get blood money. Amir's mother goes to the cemetery twice a day, once in the morning before the doors are open, and once in the evening.

Nobody knows exactly how he died. Everything is based on what could be guessed by looking at his body. What is certain is that he was alive after he was shot, he was able to speak and give his cell phone to someone to call his mother to give her the info about him being shot. He was killed, but nobody in the judicial system made any effort to demand justice for his death. Regardless, his family and all who believe in justice hope for a different ending.

Eyewitness Account from the Streets of Tehran

(9 July 2009) Today, on the streets of Tehran, at 4 pm sharp, people started to congregate along routes that had been previously announced.

Their eyes communicated with each other, expressions of familiarity, sympathy, and solidarity that today we shall make history together, yet once more. Security forces, in large numbers and from early hours, were visible on the streets. They were vigilantly preventing any gatherings from forming.

But along the intersections of Kaveh Street — at Jamalzadeh Street and from Tohid Circle to Navab — and on Vesal Street as well as along Keshavarz Boulevard, groups of three to four hundred protestors would occasionally manage to form, chanting slogans and holding up their V-shaped fingers.

Security forces and Special Forces would attack protestors from all directions, beating them with batons and mercilessly targeting them with tear gas.

Large numbers of plain-clothes agents were present, actively identifying activists and attacking them. They would hit the activists on the head with batons with much cruelty. When women screamed, they didn't care at all and would arrest protestors who were barely alive.

They had closed all routes and attempted to prevent groups of protestors from joining. But the people would use any possible route to get closer to the front of the university. Along Revolution Street, from Daneshjoo Park to the gates of the university, people filled sidewalks.

When the plain-clothes agents and the Special Forces started marching in unison, people booed them and cars honked their horns. The Special Forces began to attack the protestors and passing cars, threatening drivers to get out of their cars and yanked off their plates.

Women would scream and protect the youth under attack. What was significant, in contrast to previous protest, was that people would not run away as they came under attack, but held their own. Particularly the women would respond to the security forces: "Why should we run? This is our country, this is our land, we cannot be pushed out of our land. These sidewalks are ours. Who are you to tell us to go away, we shall not go."

As the security agents and the Special Forces were beating up the protestors, telling them to walk faster and go home, a man started to move among the crowd on his feet and hand, like a sheep, telling them "Is this good? Is that what you want us to behave like (like subservient four legged animals)?" This made the security forces

more angry and they urged them to go away, but the women kept refusing to move on and sat on the side-walks, responding: " Why should we go? This is our country and you can't tell us what to do."

A woman, clad in chador, was being harassed on Vali Asr Circle by a plain-clothes agent who kept yelling at her: " You ...(whore), I shall strip of your cloths" and threatening her. Some men interfered and managed to get her away.

Another woman, when a group of about thirty Special Forces attacked a group of youth with batons, screamed so loud that they started to beat her, hitting her several times on the head. But she did not run away and kept screaming so loud, attracting so much attention with many coming to her aid that the Special Forces were forced to retreat. The power of her screams and perseverance made the agents run away. Today's most significant point was that the people were not running away. The youth were brave and ready to sacrifice their lives. No one intended to retreat. The beatings and chasings along the avenues lasted for about three hours in the neighborhood around the Tehran University campus. The women were fighting back, especially many middle aged women wearing chador. Many had come with their families. Drivers orchestrated their honking with the protestors to exert maximum stress on the forces of repression.

Eventually, agents started to urge the women around Daneshjoo Park to go home and rest and sleep. People greeted their requests with laughter, saying "We have been just awakened, you want us to go back to sleep?"

As the darkness sat in, increasing numbers were being detained. One of the most heart wrenching aspects of today was the sight of metal pipes in the hands of Basij forces for beating up protestors.

Detailed Eyewitness Account of Tehran Protest on 20 June 2009

(21 June 2009) Yesterday afternoon, 20 June 2009, the people of Tehran came out into the streets following a concerted effort on the part of the Iranian government to cancel the gathering through the use of state media, the spread of a large amount of rumors alongside threats against political groups and activists.

It was announced that on Friday there would be a march by the people of Tehran organized by Karroubi [one of] the reformist presidential candidates. But this plan was canceled due to [unexplained] circumstances and postponed til Saturday.

From 2:00 PM on Saturday, two hours before the start of the organized demonstrations of the people of Tehran, the city took on a militarized form. Various security and military groups surrounded Azadi (Freedom) Square. The security forces were armed with batons, clubs, tear gas, masks and cables. Some also had Uzi

guns. I am presuming that they were Uzis based on the short barrel and the Kalashnikov cartridges. I am quite sure that the weapons were not G3's because I know that the G3 is the special weapon of the army, however, there were no members of the army amongst these various military forces. There were a large number of black vehicles belonging to the Special Forces around Azadi [Freedom] Square and throughout Azadi Avenue. Some of these vehicles were specifically presetnt for carrying away the arrested. There were also hundreds of motorcycles belonging to the security forces along this route. The motors had been altered to make loud noises that resembled gun shots in order to create fear amongst the crowds, especially the women and children. In the skies over Tehran, there were helicopters belonging to the Revolutionary Guard's Air Unit. The central lane of Azadi Avenue was cleared for the easy passage of the security vehicles and the motorcycles which would travel up and down the Avenue continuously and jointly. The riders of these vehicles would wave their batons and clubs above their heads and would chant "Haydar, Haydar, Haydar" or "Mola Amir al-Mo'menin" [both are appellations for Imam Ali] or "Ya Hossein, Ya Hossein." Women on the sides of the streets would beat their chests and scream "You Basijis, may Hossein inflict pain on you" or "May the Prince of the believers [Ali] kill you, oh Revolutionary Guards" or "May Haydar [Ali] destroy you, o Godless zealots." Children were screaming.

Thousands of people had gathered at Enghelab [Revolution] Square. The crowd was quiet and walking silently towards Azadi Square. After a certain distance, once the crowd had reached the Veterinary College, the demonstrators were attacked. The attackers were the Basij, Revolutionary Guards, Special Forces, Ansar-e Hezbollah and Hezbollah alongside plainclothesmen, anti-riot police and the RG Air unit. The crowd was large. As the attackers approached, the crowd turned around to escape. Many were pummelled by the crowd. The sound of screams and cries could be heard from the children in the crowd. People were forced to hold in their breath so as not to drown in the stampede. The military had no qualms in hitting women and children. Some of the soldiers would swing wires and cables in the faces of women and girls saying, "You whores, what the hell are you doing in the streets? This is a Muslim country." Some of the girls, in order to escape the beatings, were pulling themselves up on the gates around the Veterinary College, but the soldier beat them mercilessly with wires and cables. There was blood splattering on the ground from the faces and bodies of many. When the crowd got further away from the Veterinary College, there remained remnants of shoes, cell phones, jewelery, wrist watches, purses and green banners all over the streets and side walks. The military showed no mercy towards the wounded and those who had passed out. They would beat them with batons and clubs. At every intersection, the security forces had attacked the people in order to put a wedge between them and stop them from reaching Azadi Square. People were looking for other ways to get to Azadi Square through the back alleys and streets. Others stayed on Azadi Boulevard thinking that they could forge through to the Square. People were no longer quiet. In some places, battles ensued between the people and the security forces. Some still believed that it's better to continue the protests through silence and non-violence. Others would say, "we have been beaten for a couple of days now. How many more killed and how

many more days of beatings before we realize that this club-wielding government will not listen to logic and sensibility. We need to speak to them in their own language.”

Helicopters continued to hover over people’s heads. Their role was to identify the areas that needed more security forces. A few minutes after the helicopters found the women, cars and motorcycles converged on the area. Many of them were wearing masks. The women ran away. The sound of the motorcycles were frightening. The women were beaten again and tear gas was thrown at them. You could hear the women’s cries. The soldiers across the street were cheering as the women were being beaten and you could hear Allaho Akbar from them. The drivers would step on their gas and would shout “There is one part and that’s the Party of God [Hezbollah]” and “Long live Hezbollah.” Women escaped into the side streets where the battles between the military forces and the people were continuing. There was tear gas everywhere. A number of the demonstrators were soldiers from [the Iran-Iraq] War who had been victims of chemical weapons and their conditions were becoming critical because of the tear gas. A few were laying about in the street flailing to death, grabbing the air with their hands as if all they needed was a fist full of air. Some of the wounded were saying that they are War veterans whose wounds had reopened as a result of the beatings. They claimed that their bodies still had shrapnel. The ambulances were trying to quickly remove people, but people did not trust the drivers nor did they know where they would be taken, so they refused to get on the ambulance.

In the side streets, the military send backups to the units that were already there. There were reports that in areas that saw strong skirmishes and where people had put up strong resistance, helicopters from the RG’s Air Unit were spraying with a liquid that burned the face and eyes much worse than the tear gas. People entered nearby homes and everyone was looking for a water hose. But water exacerbated the pain. Everyone was holding their face and eye and crying out loud. At this moment people started condemning Mr. Khamenei, the Leader of Iran. They claimed, “the more we tried to be measured, the more rabid they became.” The para-militaries started attacking the homes where people had found refuge from the burning liquid. They would kick in the doors and windows and enter the homes. Where they couldn’t enter, they would break the windows and throw a tear gas in front so the fumes would go inside. People who had just been burned by the liquid from the helicopters were now being attacked with tear gas. They reluctantly left the homes and were immediately met with security forces with wires and clubs and batons. The soldiers would hit people while chanting “Allaho Akbar.” In the areas where the confrontations were strongest and people were being beaten the most, slogans against Khamenei were the loudest. People in those neighborhoods weren’t just demanding new elections and chanting against the President, but were demanding the abdication of Khamenei from power. In the areas with most combat, the soldiers would attack passing cars as well and would break their windows. The people living in the neighborhood didn’t have the right to come to their doors, windows, balconies or rooftops because they would have surely been met with an

attack from the para-militaries. But people continued. Residents would go to their rooftops and would report on the police activities in the streets to the demonstrators.

There were very serious confrontations in the north and south side of Navvab intersection and Jeyhoon streets. People continued to resist. It was like this in Tehran til 10 PM. After that, the number of people dwindled and the military increased. Azadi Avenue had turned into a military parade. The central lane had remained opened for military vehicles. At the intersections, they would check the men and women's purses and would confiscate all cell phone. People returning from shopping would be arrested, whether or not they participated in the demonstrations. They would arrest whomever they wanted.

Para-militaries and members of the Information and Security Agency searched for people in hospitals. Many of the wounded wouldn't use their real names when entering hospitals to avoid being caught later. The para-militaries would question people in the hospitals with total disregard to the people's physical conditions. The sick didn't know to cry or to answer questions.

High schools, large buildings belonging to the traffic police, the Labor Ministry building and various other places on Azadi Avenue were filled with military forces who would use these sites to rest, re-group and re-fuel.

At 10 PM, people who had continued the struggle in Jayhoon Street were surrounded from various sides. No one was allowed to enter the street. Many ambulances were entering the street with their sirens blasting. It wasn't clear what was happening there, but we could hear gun shots. The sound of people's screams mixed with the sound of ambulance sirens taking dead people or the wounded to hospitals. No one knew what was going on inside. You could hear Allah-o Akbar from some rooftops. Soldiers were trying to quiet people by shouting and throwing stones at houses. I waited til the street became empty and I asked permission to enter Jayhoon Street but they wouldn't let me. If a car would slow down close to Jayhoon street, the soldiers would attack them with clubs from every side and break their windows. Some of the drivers were also arrested. I waited for a miracle, for someone to come out alive from the street and tell me what had happened but there was no one. They had either escaped far or their voices had been stifled on the spot. Even the military men weren't exiting. Only the ambulances were going in and out. No one could stop around the head of the street. And those who tried to go up on the pedestrian walkway would get beaten away. A large number of soldiers armed with weapons for spreading mustard gas, tear gas and other gases rushed into Jayhoon street. No one had the right to cross the street. I asked someone for the time and it was 10:55. Azadi Avenue was filled with security agents and a few people were milling about as well. There was no reason to wait around and I wanted to find out what had happened in other parts of the demonstration route so I started walking towards Azadi Square. The various military groups were marching in large units, holding batons and clubs. Motorcycles were going up and down two sides of the

street, filling the whole city with their screech. When crossing, they would hit their batons on the rails in the middle of the street making a horrendous noise. They would say, "Tonight only the sound of Hezbollah should be heard in the city. Long live Hezbollah."

I reached the Basij Resistance barracks where a large number of security forces had gathered with their motorcycles and cars. One of the men announced, "all those who have ran out of gas, come and get some, the gasoline shipment has arrived." The soldiers were sitting on the sidewalks, some stretching out their legs. I could have crossed the street, but I decided to continue walking down the sidewalk so they would have to pull back their legs. I tried to catch their eyes so they would see the anger in my face. They just looked and said nothing. This is how it was til Azadi Square. Every ten meters or so there was a group of them with their motors, cars in the streets or around the sidewalk. And it was the same all around Azadi Square. The soldiers had eaten their meal and had thrown their containers on the grass. Some had stretched out alongside the garbage and were resting. The Square wasn't lit very well, I had to strain my eyes to make out the soldiers. But I wanted to look at them cause I felt that if I didn't, they would presume that I was afraid.

It's past midnight, I catch the first car I can to go home. In the car, I hear for the first time that there had been a bombing at the Imam's shrine. The number of casualties still won't clear. But some people were celebrating and honking their horns. I don't like what I am seeing, I am angry at whoever kills another person, whether it's a Basij, a plainclothes or their counterparts: it makes no difference to me. I slowly leave Tehran: with the smoke and bullets, the blood and screams, the screeching of the women and children. How many are mourning tonight? How many injured? Where are the arrested? No one knows anything.

From Saturday morning June 20, the families of the arrested gathered in front of the Revolutionary Court. The number of arrested is estimated at 400. Families have no news of the health or the whereabouts of their loved ones and the Revolutionary Court and other governmental agencies have not given any definitive answers to their enquiries. Among these families are also the families of the students who had been arrested recently.

The IRIB announced that today there had been no scuffles in Tehran today but we have heard unconfirmed news that there had been sporadic fights in the city.

The IRIB has concentrated its one-sided reporting to news of the beating of a soldier, destruction of public property and the burning of parts of a mosque. The IRIB has not shown any images of the beating and suppression of thousands of people in Tehran at the hands of the military forces. Not even one scene or image.

There is some news of a planned general strike. The protesters are resolute in their desire to show their opposition of the announced fraudulent election results.

People believed that no leader would order the killing of his own people as Mr. Khamenei did from his podium at Friday prayers. Unless he has become an autocratic dictator and his rule has become thoroughly authoritarian.

Iran Update: Prominent Human Rights Lawyer and Many Demonstrators Beaten and Detained as Rafsanjani Calls upon Security Forces to Follow Law, and for the Release of Prisoners

(17 July 2009) Government agents tear gassed peaceful demonstrators, beat and kidnapped a leading human rights lawyer today, while Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president and leading cleric, called for the intelligence and security force to obey the law and for the release of detained reformists and protesters.

According to eyewitnesses who reported to the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran*, unidentified individuals in plain clothes violently confronted human rights lawyer Shadi Sadr as she was walking to Friday Prayers with several friends, pushed her into an unmarked automobile and drove off. Sadr is a prominent women's rights activist, NGO leader and lawyer who has defended numerous death penalty cases.

Sadr subsequently telephoned her husband to ask the pin code of her cell phone and she confirmed she had been arrested and was detained in ward 209 of Teheran's Evin prison. Her husband reported that intelligence officers had searched his house and requested the keys to her legal office.

The *Campaign* is seriously concerned about Shadi Sadr's health and safety in prison. She suffers from gland and bone problems, needs medication, and was scheduled to have an operation next week.

Several other human rights lawyers, including Abdolfattah Soltani, Kambiz Nourouzi and Mohammed Ali Dadkhah, have been detained in recent days.

Numerous protesters were arrested as police used tear gas to suppress a large crowd of demonstrators. An eye witness told the *Campaign* that in the spot he was he saw at least 40 people severely beaten and arrested by plain clothes agents if they carried green symbols with them. The eye witness said some detainees were taken away in the trunks of unmarked cars. Information about the detainees and injured have not been officially released.

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran expresses its serious concerns for the situation of the detainees. The *Campaign* emphasizes that the fate of more than two thousand people arrested since the 12 June elections remains unclear and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. Given the lack of accountability

and transparency of the Judiciary regarding the large numbers of detainees and disappeared persons, the United Nations and the Human Rights Council should immediately send special envoys to Iran to investigate the grave situation of human rights and hold the authorities accountable.

Death Toll Apparently Far Exceeds Government Claims

Family members reportedly saw “hundreds” of corpses in makeshift morgue

Three hospitals recorded 34 deaths in a single day alone, compared to government claim of 20 deaths during the past month

(15 July 2009) Information from Iranian hospitals and victims’ families indicates that the number of demonstrators killed by security officers and militia during demonstrations to protest Iran’s disputed 12 June presidential election far exceeds government reports, the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* stated.

The *Campaign* has ascertained that on 20 June, when the government reported that 11 protesters had been killed, three Tehran hospitals placed a total of 34 corpses of demonstrators in their morgues: Imam Khomeini Hospital had 19 bodies; Rasool Akram Hospital, 8 bodies; and Loghman Hospital, 7 bodies. The information was collected by medical staff with access to the morgue records of these hospitals.

The three hospitals are located along the routes of the major demonstrations where government forces opened fire on demonstrators. There are also several other major hospitals along the routes that could have received the dead and injured on that day.

“Despite official obfuscation and denials, reliable information is accumulating suggesting that hundreds of protesters were slaughtered during the demonstrations,” stated Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the *Campaign*. “It thus appears that large numbers of those assumed to have been held in undisclosed locations and in *incommunicado* detention may be dead. “

“If this is the case, history will judge these events not as ‘excessive use of force’, but as a massacre,” he said.

Families seeking information about missing relatives have reported being shown collections containing “hundreds” of photographs of the dead that have been assembled by the authorities for identification purposes, and some have reported seeing huge collections of corpses. Some family [members reported to the Norooz website](#), belonging to the Islamic Participation Front, on 14 July, that,

“authorities took them to a cold storage facility in southwest Tehran made for storing fruits and dairy products. In their presence they showed pictures of hundreds of those that have been killed until they were able to find the picture of their loved one. It took nearly thirty minutes of searching for them to find the photo of their relative. As they were leaving, they saw hundreds of bodies piled on top of each other. “

Norooz reported that some families were not allowed to receive the bodies of their loved ones for burial until they avowed that the deceased had died of natural causes. According to sources in Iran, hundreds of family members are desperately searching for their missing relatives, as did the mother of Sohrab Aarabi, a 19-year-old student who apparently [died of gunshot wounds during a demonstration on 15 June, but whose death was only confirmed on 11 July](#).

In a publicly released letter, Sohrab’s mother recounts how on a daily basis she visited Evin prison and the courts, trying to obtain information about her missing son and was even led to believe he is in detention. [An English translation of the letter by the Campaign](#) is heart wrenching testimony to the painful experiences of the families of the missing.

A list of 185 people detained during the recent protests on 9 July has been posted outside Evin prison, including 36 women. According to sources in Tehran, on that day many other detainees were also transferred to *Kahrizak*, a temporary detention center in the outskirts of Tehran. There is no information about the names and numbers of these detainees.

There continues to be serious concerns about the increasing numbers of the disappeared persons who could be in detention, injured, or killed in recent weeks. Given the absolute lack of transparency and accountability by the Iranian Judiciary and related organs, the *Campaign* is once more urging the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, to immediately send a special envoy to Tehran to investigate the fate of detainees and disappeared persons.

Savage Attacks on Protestors who Refuse to Be Intimidated

Dozens Detained in Latest Round of Protests

(10 July 2009) Thousands of demonstrators commemorated the tenth anniversary of the student-led protests of 9 July 1999 in Tehran yesterday, despite a harsh crackdown by government forces. Dozens of protestors were detained.

Security forces and government-controlled Basij militia and plain clothes agents attacked the protestors, beating them viciously with batons, cables, and attempting to disperse them with heavy use of tear gas, several eyewitnesses told the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran*.

“The people today came out to reclaim the streets as their own and to stand firm for their legitimate rights. Although they were mercilessly attacked yet again, they did not run or hide. Their message is they want their rights respected,” said Hadi Ghaemi, the *Campaign’s* spokesman.

There were reportedly a large number of arrests: “In one location alone, I saw three police vans filled with protestors and taken away,” one eyewitness told the *Campaign*.

Plain clothes Intelligence agents combed the crowds to identify activists and detain them. Kaveh Mozaffari, a member of the *One Million Signatures Campaign* and a women’s rights activist was detained although he was not participating in protests.

Mozaffari was accompanying his mother- in- law to Mostafa Khomeini Hospital, on Italy street, near his home when Intelligence agents recognized and detained him.

According to the eyewitness accounts, regardless of the severity of the attacks aimed at dispersing the crowds, most protestors were determined to stay and claim their right to peacefully assemble. Eyewitnesses recounted the leading role of women in standing up to government forces, particularly middle-aged women who attempted to protect those coming under attacks. All witnesses expressed their shock at how old and young, men and women were targeted and beaten by government forces.

Basij militia and plain clothes agents continued to be a major part of government forces attacking protests, but the uniformed security forces also played a leading role in the attacks. Eyewitnesses reported an increasing number of juveniles among the ranks of the Basij militia.

“Many of the militia members were young boys under the age of eighteen, many more than in previous protests. Each of them was equipped with a baton,” an eyewitness reported.

The *Campaign* is seriously concerned about the exploitation of young boys as foot soldiers of the Basij militia, which is a serious violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“What was significant, in contrast to previous protests, was that people would not run away as they came under attack, but held their own. Particularly the women would respond to the security forces: “Why should we run? This is our country, this is our land, and we cannot be pushed out of our land. These sidewalks are ours. Who are you to tell us to go away, we shall not go,” an eyewitness told the *Campaign*.

“On Vali Asr intersection and in front of the City Theatre building people were beaten up with batons and attacked by tear gas, as well as by agents on motorcycles.

A very fragile elderly woman, who was crossing the sidewalk, as she saw the beatings, urged the protestors not to be afraid. A security agent forcefully kicked her leg and sides and threw her into the ground. He hit her head with the palm of his hand and angrily yelled at her: 'Shut up or I will strangle you. Get up and get lost,'" another eyewitness reported.

"Beatings of elderly persons were routine today. An elderly man was severely beaten near Revolution Square because he couldn't walk fast as he was being told by the security forces. They threw him onto the ground, kicking and beating him. He was crying and moaning like a kitten," she added.

The eyewitness also reported the savage beating of a young man who had come to the defense of the elderly man:

A young man started to call on the agents beating the old man: "How much did they give you to come here? A hundred dollars or two hundred dollars? You sold yourself just for that much? Is that what you are worth?" As soon as he uttered those words a group of nearly thirty agents attacked him. Women started screaming, hitting back the agents with their purses and key chains to rescue the young man. The agents shortly retreated. The young man's body was covered with blood, I couldn't recognize him as his face was bloodied. The agents managed to put a beige colored plastic handcuff on him, tightening it and without caring for his injuries, dragged him into a police van.

The *Campaign* called on the Iranian government to immediately remove its security and militia forces from public spaces and allow peaceful protestors to exercise their right to freedom of assembly and expression as guaranteed by the Iranian constitution and international treaties to which Iran is a party.

"The government must realize that the collective will power of people to exercise their legitimate rights cannot be repressed day after day and that the Iranian people are demonstrating their determination not to give up these rights," Ghaemi said.

Abide by International Law regarding Peaceful Demonstrations, Rein in Vigilante Groups

Respect for Human Rights and Dialogue Needed for Peaceful Solution

(19 June 2009) The Iranian government is bound by Iranian and international law to protect the right to peaceful assembly, despite threats against citizens seeking to express their views on the disputed presidential elections, the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* said today. The *Campaign* is deeply concerned by the possibility of more police and vigilante violence against peaceful demonstrators and the further arbitrary detention of Iranian citizens, and calls on authorities to

abide by Iran's international legal obligations and the Iranian Constitution in dealing with mass unrest about the 12 June presidential election results.

"We reject unequivocally any suggestion that peaceful demonstrations are illegal, motivated by treasonous agendas, or against the interests of the Iranian people," stated Aaron Rhodes, a spokesman for the *Campaign*. "They are a fundamental and universal human right of Iranian citizens and people around the world."

The *Campaign* has monitored and documented the excessive use of force against demonstrators who have sought to express themselves to the authorities in the aftermath of Iran's contested 12 June 2009 presidential elections. Violence against these demonstrators has resulted in a number of deaths and many serious injuries. The use of force by police and security forces is severely restricted by international standards; the use of force against Iranian demonstrators has been clearly inconsistent with relevant international standards, in particular the [UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials](#).

Having ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Iran is legally obligated to respect the right to peaceful assembly as *per* article 21, a right that is also established under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 20). The right to peaceful assembly is also protected by article 27 of Iran's Constitution, provided its exercise does not violate the principles of Islam.

The *Campaign* calls on the Iranian authorities to demilitarize the streets of cities and to remove excessive police and security forces, there for the clear purpose of intimidating or confronting peaceful demonstrators.

The *Campaign* calls on the authorities to disarm and control violent vigilante groups that have killed and beaten Iranian citizens in past days, and to prosecute members of such groups who engage in criminal acts.

"As a civilized society, Iran cannot tolerate hateful violence by extremist groups acting with impunity against their fellow citizens on the orders of or tacitly condoned by state authorities," Rhodes said.

The *Campaign* calls on Iranian authorities to cease interfering with civil telecommunications, in their apparent effort to restrict the freedom of expression and to control flows of information.

The *Campaign* has also monitored the arbitrary detention of dozens of Iranian human rights activists, political figures, civil leaders and journalists, many of whom remain in detention along with untold numbers of ordinary citizens who have also been arrested during demonstrations throughout Iran. Arbitrary detention is strictly forbidden under international law, specifically by article 9 of the ICCPR. The *Campaign* believes that all of these illegally detained citizens are at risk of torture

and ill-treatment and that some may be in particular jeopardy, and reminds that the government is responsible for the health and safety of all in its custody.

The *Campaign* urges the Iranian authorities to release all people detained arbitrarily and to take immediate steps to end police violence against peaceful demonstrators, in accordance with Iran's international legal obligations.

The *Campaign* urges the authorities to enter into dialogue with leaders of political opposition groups in order to avoid any further loss of life and injury, and thus to take steps to resolve the current political situation peacefully.

Mass Arrests and Detentions Signal Increasing Repression

"A purge of reform-oriented individuals...."

(17 June 2009) The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* reported today that several dozen notable figures including Saeed Hajjarian, Mohammad Ali Abtahi, Behzad Nabavi, and Abdolfattah Soltani were arrested on 16 June 2009. Hajjarian was an advisor to former president Mohammad Khatami and Abtahi was director of Khatami's office during his presidency and is now a senior adviser to Mehdi Karroubi. Nabavi is a former member of parliament and Minister of Industry and Mining. Soltani is a leading human rights lawyer and member of the *Defenders of Human Rights Center*.

The detainees include numerous political figures, intellectuals, civil leaders, human rights activists, and journalists, as well as a large but unknown number of ordinary citizens who have taken part in street demonstrations since the disputed 12 June presidential elections.

"Iranian intelligence and security forces are using the public protests to engage in what appears to be a major purge of reform-oriented individuals whose situations in detention could be life-threatening," according to Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the *Campaign*.

"The authorities are responsible for the health and safety of these people and should be held accountable," he added.

The *Campaign* expressed serious concerns for the health and safety of Hajjarian, who was the target of an assassination attempt by extremists. In 2000, he was shot in the head, suffering serious brain and spinal cord injuries. He is in urgent need of continuous medical care and authorities have not provided any information about his whereabouts or conditions. Hajjarian has been under the constant care of several doctors, including Dr. Taghi Kimya-Asadi, a neurologist in Washington who travels often to Iran.

Dr. Kimya-Asadi told the *Campaign*: “He has been left with great difficulty walking, suffering much pain and discomfort. He is in need of multiple medications, including Mysoline, Inderal, & Trileptal, that I prescribed for him, among others that have been prescribed by his other medical doctors in Iran. He is in need of constant nursing care, as well as physical therapy. Detention is extremely detrimental to his well-being and puts his life in danger. Especially if there is any interruption in his medication which may cause a serious life threatening situation in the case of sudden withdrawal. At home, he is under the constant medical supervision of his wife, who is a medical doctor.”

According to Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, her colleague Abdolfattah Soltani, one of Iran’s leading human rights lawyers, was arrested by security officers who entered his office posing as clients. He was a member of the Arbitrary Detentions Investigation Committee. The other member of this Committee, Alireza Tajik and Kayvan Samimi were arrested two days ago. Shiva Nazarahari, a human rights defender, and Mahsa Amrabadi, a journalist, are also among the detainees.

Also arrested was a former spokesperson for Khatami, Abdollah Ramezanzadeh, who also served as governor of Kurdistan, and Mostafa Tajzadeh, a political figure who was in charge of conducting elections in the Interior Ministry when Khatami was in office. Other members of Mehdi Karroubi’s campaign staff in Tehran and Tabriz, including Bagher Oskouiee and Amir Mardani, have also been arrested.

Other well-known political figures who have been arrested include Mohsen Aminzadeh, Mohammad Atrianfar, and Mohammad Tavasoli.

Three other political activists Taghi Rahmani, Reza Alijani, and Hoda Saberi were arrested on 14 June, but may have been released since.

Other detainees are members of the *Nehzat Azadi*, one of the oldest political parties in Iran, including Ahmad Afjeiee, Emad Bahavar, Mojtaba Khandan, Saieed Zeraatkar, Rouholah Shafiee, Ali Mehrdad, and Mohammad Reza Ahmadinia. Also arrested were members of the reformist party, *Jebhe Mosharekat Islami (Islamic Participation Front)*, including Ali Pour Khayeri, Shahin Nourbakhsh, Ali Taghipour Mohammad Shokuhi, Ashkan Mojaleli, Maysam Varahchehre, Mahdiah Minavi, and Farhad Nasrollahpour.

There has apparently been a systematic detention of members of various civil society formations. Members of the central council of the university alumni group *ADVAR*, which is influential among students, were arrested including Ahmad Zaydabadi, General Secretary, Hadi Kahal, and Hamed Iranshahi.

Reports received by the *Campaign* from the City of Tabriz indicate that over 100 prominent civic figures in the city have also been detained including Dr. Jalil Sharabianlu, Dr. Ghafar Farzadi, Majd Jabari, Rahim Yawai, Abbas Pourazhari, Dr.

Lay Farzadi, Shabeti, Shamlu, Dr. Ghafarzadeh, Dr. Soltaniazad, Dr. Panahi, Dr. Seyflou, Dr. Dadizadeh, Mehdi Yarbahrani, Mansour Ghafari, Hojatollah Amiri, Amir Hossein Jahani, Rohdah Rahimipour, and Mehdi Khodadadi.

Several reports from throughout the country indicate that many activists have disappeared, including Payam Haydar Ghazvini, Nasim Riahi, Mojtaba Rajabi, and Atar Rashidi in Ghazvin province.

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* calls for the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained persons. The *Campaign* urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to urgently seek information about these cases and to demand assurances for their health and safety.

End Violence against Peaceful Protests

(15 June 2009) The Iranian government should immediately end its violent repression of largely peaceful nationwide protests following last Friday's presidential elections, the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* and *Human Rights Watch* said today.

The two human rights organizations said that state security forces used excessive force, including live ammunition, against demonstrators in urban centers across the country, including in Tehran, Tabriz, Mashad, and Rasht. At least one protestor was killed in Shiraz and another one killed in Tehran. The security forces reportedly used plastic bullets against protesters, with possible fatalities, on university campuses in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz. According to unconfirmed reports by student-run websites, two female and three male students died in Tehran: Mobina Ehterami, Fatemeh Barati, Kasra Sharafi, Kambiz Shojaii, and Mohsen Imani.

"Iran's government has a duty to uphold the rights of citizens to peacefully protest," said Hadi Ghaemi, coordinator of the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran*. "Instead the authorities are using violence to crack down on the demonstrations."

The Associated Press has reported the killing of a protestor in Tehran and injuries to others after gunfire came from a compound used by a volunteer force linked to the Revolutionary Guard, the Basij Militia.

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* and *Human Rights Watch* urged the Iranian authorities to allow peaceful protests to proceed.

"The Ahmadinejad government has a responsibility to stop the use of unlawful force against protestors and to hold accountable those who fired on them with live

ammunition,” said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East and North Africa director at *Human Rights Watch*.

Following Friday’s polls, communications within the country have become increasingly curtailed as the government evicts foreign journalists and imposes greater restrictions on domestic reporting. The two organizations called on the Iranian government to allow both domestic and foreign reporters to cover the protests freely.

The two human rights organizations urged the Iranian authorities to abide by the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials in policing demonstrations. The principles provide that authorities shall, as far as possible, apply nonviolent means before resorting to the use of force and firearms. Whenever the lawful use of force and firearms is unavoidable, the authorities must use restraint and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offense. The Basic Principles also call for an effective reporting and review process, especially in cases of death and serious injury.

An Appeal to Iranian Authorities to End Restrictions on Civil Liberties and Violence against Demonstrators

(14 June 2009) The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* today appealed to Iranian authorities to withdraw security and Special Guards from public places, allow peaceful demonstrations, halt violence against citizens, and to release without charge numerous opposition leaders, journalists, and demonstrators who have been detained in the wake of the disputed presidential election on 12 June.

The *Campaign* also urged the authorities to restore media that have been shut down in the context of the election, as well as cellular telephone and texting capacities that have been reduced, and to allow international media to function normally.

“At this crucial time, we urge the government to end restrictions and infringements on civil liberties that can lead to violent and dangerous public confrontations,” stated Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the *Campaign*.

“We ask that the streets be de-militarized and that citizens be allowed to express themselves in accordance with Iran’s international obligations to respect the freedoms of expression and association,” he said.

Since the announcement of election results, protests have engulfed Tehran and other cities that have been attacked violently by the police and special forces of security units. Reports indicate that violence directed at protesters has been indiscriminate and has resulted in many injuries.

On 14 June, Sardar Radan, a police commander, told the media that 170 people have been arrested in recent days; 110 of whom are protestors. He described the remaining detainees as “organizers.”

The *Campaign* has confirmed the detention of at least 20 leading opposition politicians and journalists including Mostafa Tajzadeh, Mohsen Aminzadeh, Taghi Rahmani, Reza Alijani, Abdullah Ramezanzadeh, Shahin Nourbakhsh, Hoda Saber, Kayvan Samimi, Emad Bahavar, Ahmad Afjeie, Ahmad Zaydabadi, Saeed Shariati, and Shiva Nazarahari.

Behzad Nabavi, Mohammad Reza Khatami and his wife, Mohsen Mirdamadi, Zahra Mojaradi, and Mohammad Atrianfard were also detained overnight and released on Sunday 14 June.

The *Campaign* has learned that security forces have announced that further arrests will be made.

The *Campaign* insists that the government has a responsibility to restore a peaceful and safe environment for Iranian citizens and can do so by ending oppressive restrictions that can provoke clashes and a cycle of police violence.

Iran Election Update: Concerns for Violence Against Moussavi Supporters Grow

Moussavi Campaign Says Interior Ministry Had Notified Them He Has Won the Elections

- *Issues Statement Saying He will Fight Against Fraud*
- *Scheduled to Hold Press Conference at 2 PM in Tehran, Not Clear if It be Allowed*

(13 June 2009) [As of 1:30 PM Tehran Time] *The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* expressed its serious concerns for the growing crisis in Tehran and the possibility of a violent crackdown against the opposition candidate, Mir Hossein Moussavi, and his supporters.

According to eyewitness reports from individuals present in front of Moussavi's headquarters, several of his supporters were attacked by security forces and suffered serious injuries earlier today. They have been transferred to Sajjad Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, the famed Iranian director currently in Paris, told the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* that he is acting as the spokesperson for Moussavi's Campaign abroad.

“After security forces attacked and shut down the press offices of Moussavi’s campaign in Gheitarieh yesterday, I was asked to act as their spokesperson abroad,” he said. He added that he is charged with informing the world that “last night Interior Ministry officials told Moussavi and his staff that he has won the elections but they should not make it public yet. Moussavi’s campaign, accordingly, began preparations for a public celebration on Sunday.”

This was before the first official claims of Ahmadinejad’s win were announced by the Election Committee. Since then, security and armed forces have made a strong presence in Tehran and the official media has put out figures claiming Ahmadinejad has won by a large margin. The Interior Ministry was to announce the final vote tally several hours ago, but has not done so as of this writing.

At around 1PM Tehran time, Moussavi issued a statement, addressing the Iranian people. “The officially announced results of the tenth presidential elections are shocking. People who waited in long lines and witnessed the voting process, and know who they voted for, are watching, in complete disbelief, the unfolding of magic tricks of the election officials and the state Radio and Television,” he stated.

“I register my strongest protest to the present process and to the obvious and widespread irregularities on election day. I warn that I will not surrender to this dangerous stagecraft....I recommend to the authorities to immediately put an end to this process before it is too late,” he continued.

“If Moussavi’s claim prove credible, that the Interior Ministry declared him the winner first and then turned around and officially announced Ahmedinejad is the winner, then the election was stolen in a matter of hours with the help of the Revolutionary Guards and security agents who have taken control of Tehran,” said Hadi Ghaemi, the spokesperson for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

According to latest reports, crowds are gathering at various parts of the capital protesting the election results. At 2 PM Tehran time, Moussavi is expected to hold a press conference at the offices of Etelaat newspaper, but it is not clear if it will be allowed.

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* is concerned that police and security forces may violently confront Moussavi’s supporters and prevent him from making his challenge to official vote count public.

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* will continue to issue updates as events in Tehran unfold.