

Urgent Actions October 3, 7, 8, 9, 2014

3 October 2014

UA: 250/14

Issue Date: 3 October 2014

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25014.pdf>

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST DETAINED

Human rights activist Saeed Shirzad has been detained in Tehran's Evin Prison for four months, without access to his lawyer. He has been accused of having contact with political prisoners' families and cooperating with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

Name: Saeed Shirzad (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Legal concern, Unjust imprisonment

Further information on UA: 23/14

Issue Date: 3 October 2014 (6 February 2014) and update (19 March 2014)

Country: Pakistan

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa02314_1.pdf

GUARD SHOTS MENTALLY ILL PRISONER

Blasphemy prisoner Mohammad Asghar has been shot and wounded by a prison guard in Pakistan. He is recovering in a hospital, but his lawyers fear he is still in danger of being killed.

Names: Mohammad Asghar (m), Zaffar Bhatti (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Fear for safety, Freedom of expression

Further information on UA: 238/14 (24 September 2014)

Issue Date: 3 October 2014

Country: Indonesia

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa23814_0.pdf

SHARI'A BYLAW PASSED BY THE ACEH PARLIAMENT

The Aceh parliament has passed a Shari'a bylaw that would criminalize, among other things, same-sex sexual relations and consensual sex outside marriage, punishable by caning. The governor of Aceh and central government have powers to block its implementation.

Issues: LGBT rights, Legal concerns, Risk of torture/ill-treatment

Further information on UA: 82/14 (8 April 2014) and update (15 July 2014)

Issue Date: 3 October 2014

Country: Myanmar

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa08214_2.pdf

IMPRISONED MEDIA WORKERS' SENTENCES REDUCED

Five media workers from Unity newspaper in Myanmar had their sentences reduced on appeal to seven years' imprisonment. They were jailed in connection with their journalistic activities and are prisoners of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Names: Lu Maw Naing (m), Yarzar Oo (m), Paing Thet Kyaw (m), Sithu Soe (m) and Tint San (m)

Issues: Prisoners of conscience, Freedom of expression, Risk of torture/ill-treatment

7 October 2014

(No UAs issued on 6 October 2014)

Further information on UA: 246/14

Issue Date: 7 October 2014 and update (1 October 2014)

Country: Mexico

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa24614_0.pdf

DISAPPEARED STUDENTS STILL MISSING IN MEXICO

The 43 disappeared students are still missing after being fired at by police and later attacked by unknown individuals in Iguala, Guerrero state. Twenty-eight bodies have been found in unmarked mass graves near Iguala, but their identities remain unclear and the search for those abducted continues.

Issues: Enforced disappearance, Mass arrest, Extrajudicial killings

UA: 251/14

Issue Date: 7 October 2014

Country: Afghanistan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25114.pdf>

AFGHAN PRESIDENT MUST STOP EXECUTIONS

Six men, including five convicted in a rape case, face execution in Afghanistan after an unfair trial.

The men are due to be executed on 8 October.

Name: names not known (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Torture, Unfair trial

UA: 252/14

Issue Date: 7 October 2014

Country: Bahrain

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25214.pdf>

DEATH SENTENCE FOR FLARE FATALITY

A Bahraini man under sentence of death has lodged his final appeal and could be at risk of execution. He was sentenced to death in February 2014 and lost his first appeal in August.

Name: Maher Abbas Ahmad (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Torture, Legal concerns

****Stop Action****

Further information on UA: 205/14

Issue Date: 7 October 2014 and update (15 August 2014)

Country: Egypt

REFUGEES RESETTLED IN EUROPE

The two Palestinian refugees from Syria that the Egyptian authorities had been preparing to forcibly return to Syria or Gaza have now been resettled in Europe.

The Egyptian authorities had been preparing to deport two Palestinian men, Youssef Farid Youssef and Hamza Issa to Syria or Gaza. The two men had been living in Syria but fled to Gaza to escape the crisis there. They tried to leave Gaza on 9 August 2014 because of Operative "Protective Edge", but were arrested when they tried to enter Egypt via the Rafah crossing. They have now been resettled in Europe.

Amnesty International spoke to Youssef Farid Youssef, who said he was grateful for the organization's action and thanked its members for their help and support.
No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.
Names: Youssef Farid Youssef (m), Hamza Issa (m)
Issues: Fear for safety, Forced return

****Stop Action****

Further information on UA: 248/14
Issue Date: 7 October 2014 (Update 2 October 2014)
Country: Ecuador

PROTESTERS SENTENCED TO TWO MONTHS IN PRISON

Despite calls by their lawyers, the trial against 53 people detained in anti-government demonstrations went ahead. Those charged accepted responsibility and received reduced sentences of two months in prison.

On 2 October a judge decided that the trial against the 53 people detained in anti-government demonstrations in and around the secondary school Instituto Nacional Mejía, in Quito, the capital, on 18 September would go ahead. The prosecutor accused 38 of the detainees of being accomplices and 16 as direct actors, charged with "damage to other people's property" (daños a bien ajeno).

All those charged decided in consultation with their families and defense counsel to accept responsibility for their actions in order to obtain a reduction in their sentences. They were all sentenced to two months in prison.

No further action is requested of the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.
Issues: Legal concerns

8 October 2014

Further information on UA: 61/14
Issue Date: 8 October 2014 and update (19 March 2014)
Country: United Arab Emirates
http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa06114_0.pdf

UAE TWITTER ACTIVIST'S UNFAIR TRIAL CONTINUES

Osama al-Najjar is due to appear before the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi, for his second hearing on 14 October on charges stemming from his Twitter activities defending his father. If convicted, he will have no right to appeal. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Osama al-Najjar (m)
Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Unfair trial, Torture/ill-treatment

Further information on UA: 227/14
Issue Date: 8 October 2014 and update (10 September 2014)
Country: Iran
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa22714.pdf>

JAILED BRITISH-IRANIAN WOMAN ON HUNGER STRIKE

British-Iranian woman Ghoncheh Ghavami has been on hunger strike since 1 October in protest at her prolonged detention and her lack of access to her lawyer. Ghoncheh Ghavami is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Name: Ghoncheh Ghavami (f)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Hunger strike, Risk of torture/ill-treatment

Further information on UA: 128/14

Issue Date: 8 October 2014 and update (16 May 2014)

Country: Egypt

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa12814_0.pdf

HUNGER STRIKER HOSPITALIZED IN INTENSIVE CARE

Detained Egyptian-American national Mohamed Soltan was hospitalized on 7 October after his health deteriorated dramatically following an eight-month wet hunger strike.

Name: Mohamed Soltan (m)

Issues: Hunger strike, Health concern, Unjust imprisonment

****Stop Action****

Further information on UA: 213/13 (6 August 2013) and updates (4 November 2013, 24 January 2014, 30 September 2014)

Issue Date: 8 October 2014

Country: Myanmar

ROHINGYA ACTIVIST CONDITIONALLY RELEASED

Human rights defender U Kyaw Hla Aung has been released from prison in Myanmar as part of a Presidential amnesty. Before being released he was required to sign a statement agreeing not to take part in any other “unlawful activities” or else he would be imprisoned again.

On 7 October, Rohingya Muslim human rights defender U Kyaw Hla Aung was released from Sittwe prison, Rakhine State in Western Myanmar. He was released as part of a prisoner amnesty announced by the Myanmar authorities earlier that day. Amnesty International understands that he was released because he had less than six months of his sentence left to serve. He is understood to be in poor health, and suffering from high blood pressure and arthritis.

U Kyaw Hla Aung was released under Article 401 of Myanmar’s Code of Criminal Procedure, which gives the President authority to release prisoners. Article 401 also provides that released prisoners can be taken back to prison to serve the remainder of their sentence if “any condition on which a sentence has been suspended or remitted is, in the opinion of the President of Union, not fulfilled”. On his release U Kyaw Hla Aung was required to sign a statement agreeing that he would not get involved in any other crime or “unlawful activities” or he would have to serve the remainder of his sentence.

U Kyaw Hla Aung had been in detention since his arrest on 15 July 2013. On 26 September 2014 a court in Sittwe found him guilty of “rioting” and sentenced him to 18 months in prison. Amnesty International considers the charges against him to have been politically motivated.

While Amnesty International welcomes the release of U Kyaw Hla Aung, the fact remains that he should never have been imprisoned in the first place.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No more action is required from the UA network.

Name: U Kyaw Hla Aung (m)

Issues: Human rights defender, Health concerns, Arbitrary detention

9 October 2014

UA: 255/14

Issue Date: 9 October 2014

Country: China

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25514.pdf>

DETAINED FOR SUPPORTING HONG KONG PROTESTS

At least 26 people, including several poets and artists, have been detained in Beijing for showing support for the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Thirteen people are known to have been accused of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", and could face up to five years in prison if formally charged.

Names: Activists criminally detained in Beijing on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble": Han Ying (韩颖) (f), Liu Huizhen (刘惠珍) (f), Li Dongmei (李冬梅) (f), Jiang Liuyong (姜流勇) (m), Guo Zhiying (郭志英) (f), Chen Lianhe (陈连和) (m), Wu Xiaoping (吴小平) (f), Han Suqing (韩淑清) (f), Cui Baodi (崔宝弟) (f), Zhang Zonggang (张宗钢) (m), Wang Chongxi (王崇喜) (m)

Activists from Songzhuang art community in Beijing criminally detained on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble": Zhang Miao (张淼) (f), Wang Zang (王藏) (m)

Activists from Songzhuang art community in Beijing: Cui Guangxia (崔广厦) (m), Zhu Yanguang (朱雁光) (m), Fei Xiaosheng (费小胜) (m), Ren Chongyuan (任重远) (m), Ding Ding (丁酃) (m), Wang Lin (王琳) (f), Zhui Hun (追魂) (m), Lü Shang (吕上) (m),

Other activists detained in Beijing: Guo Hongwei (郭宏伟) (m), Wang Su'e (王素娥) (f), Ran Chongbi (冉崇碧) (f), Li Yufeng (李玉凤) (f), Li Xuehui (李学惠) (f)

Issues: Mass arrest, Freedom of expression, Unjust imprisonment

Further information on UA: 174/13 (5 July 2013)

Issue Date: 9 October 2014

Country: Iran

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa17413_0.pdf

EX-POLITICAL PRISONER DETAINED, RISKS TORTURE

Former prisoner of conscience Arash Sadeghi has been held in Tehran's Evin Prison since 6 September. He is believed to be in solitary confinement without access to a lawyer and he has yet to be charged. He may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Name: Arash Sadeghi (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Unjust imprisonment

UA: 253/14

Issue Date: 9 October 2014

Country: Afghanistan

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25314_0.pdf

10-YEAR OLD RAPE SURVIVOR FACES 'HONOR' KILLING

Brishna, a 10-year old girl from Kunduz province in Afghanistan was raped by a local mullah in May 2014. She is at risk of an "honor" killing by family and community members. The women's rights defender who assists her is facing death threats.

Name: Brishna (f)

Issues: Death threats, Fear for safety, Legal concern