

RAN #6 2008

February 15, 2008

CHINA campaign update: The number of imprisoned writers is now 38. Please see our website www.pencanada.ca for details of releases.

IRAN: Amin Ghazaei, writer/student leader detained; fears of ill-treatment

BACKGROUND: Writer and activist **Amin Ghazaei** has been held incommunicado without charge since January 14, 2008. He is reported to be in solitary confinement in Section 209 of Evin Prison, and to have been tortured. There is concern for his health as he reportedly suffers from a peptic ulcer, heart problems, and asthma. PEN seeks assurances of his well-being and guarantees that he has access to all necessary medical care as a matter of urgency. He is among scores of student activists detained in December 2007 and January 2008.

Amin Ghazaei, the leader of Students for Freedom and Equality (Daneshjouyan-e Azadi Khah va Beraber Talab) was born in 1979. He is chief editor of the electronic journal *ArtCult*, known for on-line articles on topics such as gender identity and has translated banned books into Farsi, including *Gender Trouble* (Judith Butler), *Seduction* (Jean Baudrillard), and *Cyborg Manifesto* (Donna Haraway). He has a web-log (bafandeh.blogfa.com), two collections of writings, *Hich Etefagh* (Nothing Happening) and *Haghighat* (Truth), and he co-authored the anthology *Honar-e Mossalah* (Armed Art). None of his works have been submitted for publication inside Iran.

For a full list of Honorary Members, click on the following link:
<http://www.pencanada.ca/prison/HonoraryMembers.php>

APPEAL LETTER

Leader of the Islamic Republic
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed ~Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street - Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@leader.ir

Your Excellency

As a member of PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of International PEN, the worldwide writers' organization with 145 centres in 104 countries, I am writing to express my serious concerns about the detention and well-being of writer and activist **Amin Ghazaei**, who has been held incommunicado without charge since January 14, 2008.

I join my writer colleagues in seeking guarantees of the well-being of Amin Ghazaei and demanding that he is given full access to his family, lawyers and all necessary medical treatment.

We also call for the immediate and unconditional release of Amin Ghazaei in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a signatory.

Sincerely,

[your name and address here]

Please send copies of your letter to the following:

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh / Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

President:
His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: Via Foreign Ministry: +98 21 6 674 790
(mark: "Please forward to H.E. President Ahmadinejad")
Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir
via website: www.president.ir/email

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
245 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 2K2
Fax: (613) 232-5712
Email: iranemb@salamiran.org, ambassador@iranembassy.org

Please send copies of your letter to Canadian officials:

David Mulroney
Associate Deputy Minister
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: david.mulroney@international.gc.ca

Jeffrey McLaren
Deputy Director, Iraq and Iran
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: jeffrey.mclaren@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca

Robert Sinclair
Deputy Director, Human Rights Division
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