

Chronology of Events in Iran, November 2002*

November 1

Student allegedly killed by militiamen in Ahwaz. (Student Movement Coordination Committee for Democracy in Iran / SMCCDI)*

Malek Hossein Rassooli, a student of the Ahwaz University, was reportedly killed by a militiaman** during his interrogation at the 21st Law Enforcement Forces center. The student was declared as a "subversive" and "crazy" element by the regime for his role in Ahwaz unrests. The official report states that the student was killed by bullet in a fight with a militiaman.

November 2

Iranian reformists seek alternative to stoning. (Reuters)

Iranian reformist legislators said they wanted to replace death by stoning with another form of punishment following European Parliament criticism of the practice. Iranian officials refuse to say how often stonings are carried out.

November 3

"Blood money" equality for recognised religious minority members approved by the Majlis. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL Iran Report)

Iran's parliament [Majlis] approved a [general principles of] bill that would make the amount of "blood money" ('diyeh') paid by a perpetrator for the killing or wounding of a Christian, Jew, or Zoroastrian the same as it would be for the killing or wounding of a Muslim. The Iranian Constitution states that Iran is a Shia Muslim state and Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism are recognized minority faiths. Nevertheless, the blood money for minorities is less than that for Muslims -- currently \$18,750 for a Muslim male and half that amount for a minority or a female. As a condition, the legislature required that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approve it and set the amount. The Guardians Council also must approve the legislation on Islamic and constitutional grounds before it becomes law.

* *Disclaimer: Reports contained in this document are selected from publicly available resources and edited by country experts. The information provided here is not, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country of origin surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim. Further information may be obtained from BO Ankara.*

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

** Militiaman: This term is generally used either for the members of the paramilitary Bassij forces which are active under the Revolutionary Guards Corps or other known or unknown fundamentalist paramilitary groups.

November 4

Former Interior Minister pardoned. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pardoned former Interior Minister and Tehran Municipal Council member Hojatolislam Abdullah Nuri. Nuri was sentenced to prison in November 1999 on charges of “publishing reports that insult officials and institutions of the system, reporting lies and waging propaganda against the system, insulting ‘Father of the Revolution’ Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his views, publishing reports contrary to religious principles, and insulting religious sanctities”. Other charges included supporting ties with the United States, promoting dissident cleric Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri's political views, and urging recognition of Israel. Khamenei sent a letter to Judiciary chief Ayatollah Mahmud Hashemi-Shahrudi in which he said his pardon of Nuri is based on requests from members of parliament.

Reformist figure arrested. (Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA)

A prominent journalist and a ranking member of the Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF) Abbas Abdi was arrested. The director of IIPF Public Relations Office Karim Arghandehpur said Abdi was arrested at his home after the police searched his residence. Abdi is a director of the Ayandeh [also reported as Avendir] research institute that was sealed off last week.

November 5

Iranian woman survives execution by stoning. (Agence France-Presse / AFP and Iranian website WomeninIran.com)

An Iranian woman found guilty of complicity to murder has survived her execution by stoning by managing to escape the pit she was buried in. She is currently in Yazd prison. This middle-aged woman, sentenced to death by stoning for having an affair with her husband's murderer, was convicted of being an accessory to the murder. The man who killed her husband was previously executed by stoning.

It is reported that another couple, in the city of Bafgh, were arrested for the same reason and the woman is currently awaiting the same sentence.

November 6

Tehran University students stage protest outside Justice Ministry. (Iranian Students News Agency / ISNA)

A group of [Tehran University] students staged a protest outside the Justice Ministry, and issued a statement against the way the Judiciary has been dealing with economic corruption.

Two executions carried out in Marivan. (SMCCDI)*

Two more executions were reportedly carried out in Marivan, the scene of clashes and a prison riot in September 2002. The names of the two victims were reported as

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"Mostafa Jula" and "Ali-Kaf-Jalil". Their "crimes" have been reported as "blasphemy" and "insult against the sanctity of Islam".

Majlis approves reform bill barring arbitrary disqualification of candidates.
(Associated Press / AP)

Iran's 290-seat legislature [Majlis] overwhelmingly voted to bar the Guardian Council from disqualifying candidates without "firm documented reasons". The Guardian Council, whose 12 members are appointed directly by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, must approve all bills before they become law and has authority to block political candidates. "The bill is designed to prevent the Guardian Council from disallowing candidates who don't agree with its strict interpretation of Islam to run and reject the ones they dislike," MP Torkashvand said. Torkashvand said members of the former monarchy, armed groups and convicted felons would still not be allowed to run. Ali Tajernia, another reformist lawmaker, said if people prefer counterrevolutionaries to conservative clerics "then those clerics have no legitimacy to remain in power." The Guardian Council disqualifies many candidates without giving reasons, but those disqualified are widely seen as people who oppose the Council's interpretations of Islam and the position of the Supreme Leader.

November 7

Death sentence for Iranian reformist who questioned clergy. (AFP)

Prominent Iranian academic and reformist Hashem Aghajari was sentenced to death by a closed-door court that deemed his outspoken criticism of the ruling Shiite Muslim clergy to be an insult to Islam. Saleh Nikbakht said the ally of President Mohammad Khatami was condemned to die by a court in Hamedan.

November 8

Iranian security officers detain Azeri journalist. (Azerbaijani newspaper Zerkalo)

The officers of the Iranian Information Ministry (Ettela'at) detained a prominent journalist and an active member of the national movement, Ali Suleymani, according to the Committee to Protect the National Revival Movement of Southern Azerbaijan (NRMSA). The journalist was arrested in his own house some days ago. At present, his family has no information about his whereabouts. Suleymani is accused of participating in the Sixth World Congress of Azeris held in the Hague at the beginning of October 2002 and cooperating with forces in opposition to the Iranian regime. Suleymani used to work for the *Shams-e Tabriz* [The Tabriz Sun] newspaper closed by the Iranian authorities a year and half ago. He visited Baku in October.

The head of the NRMSA Baku office, Huseyn Turkelli, said that some information discrediting the NRMSA and its leader, Mahmudali Cohraqani [Chehregani], had appeared on behalf of Suleymani in the web site of the World Congress of Azeris in September 2002. Learning about this, Suleymani published a denial in the same web site. Turkelli said that the journalist was put under pressure to reverse his denial. Turkelli added that Suleymani had never mentioned in his private talks that he was under pressure by the Iranian authorities.

November 9

Iranian students protest Aghajari death sentence. (Reuters)

Hundreds of Iranian students protested on the night against the death sentence imposed on a leading pro-reform academic in the biggest student demonstration for more than four years. About 500 students gathered in front of the Tehran University campus gates. Police cordoned off nearby roads but remained about 100 metres from the group of students. The students chanted slogans in favour of Hashem Aghajari. The demonstration took place in front of the same university dormitory that was stormed by the Basij forces in July 1999. About 500 students made fires outside the Tehran University campus gates and chanted in unison: "Freedom of thought forever!" and "Our problem is the judiciary!". Police blocked off roads surrounding the campus and fired at least one tear gas canister. But they made no move towards the students. Around 1:00 a.m., five hours after it started, the protest had begun to fizzle out, with most students drifting back inside the campus. "Execution of Aghajari is execution of thought in Iran!" the students shouted as dozens of plain clothes police and members of the radical conservative vigilante group Ansar e-Hezbollah watched from behind the police cordon.

Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) report on the same news [November 10]:

In the early minutes of the morning of 19 Aban, about 130-150 students from the Tehran University dormitory, who have been taking part in a gathering since about 18:30 in protest against the quality of [campus] food, are still present in the street opposite the university dormitory. In addition to this group of students, some of whom have gathered around a fire, about 60 or 70 others are encouraging the protesters in the street from the other side of the fence, in the dormitory area. The deputy head of Tehran University for student affairs, Ali Asghar Khodayari, is still trying to convince the protesters to return to their dormitories. Here and there, some of the students are shouting slogans in support of Hashem Aghajari and freedom of thought. The presence of reporters from foreign media is striking.

Reuters' report on the same news [November 10]: Hundreds of Iranian students protested for a second day, outraged at a death sentence for blasphemy imposed on a reformist academic. A rally was held on November 10 for Aghajari at Tehran University. Around 500 students crammed into an auditorium to hear speaker after speaker condemn the court verdict and sharply criticise the country's clerical and political leaders. "We want Aghajari and his lawyer not to appeal the verdict to see what happens to him. If he is hanged, we will be next to him," one student said to wild cheers and applause. Khatami did not escape criticism at this rally.

ISNA report on the same news [November 10]: A group of students of the Teachers' Training University staged a two-hour sit-in, shouting slogans calling for Aghajari's release. Also, in protest at Aghajari's sentence, at the invitation of the Islamic Students' Society, a protest gathering was held at the main corridor of Abu Ali Sina University. A large number of students took part in the protest, which coincided with the showing of the film of Aghajari's speech at the Mo'alleh [teacher] Hall in Hamedan. All the lectures at Abu Ali Sina University will be cancelled [on November 11, 2002], in protest at Dr Aghajari's sentence. From 10:00 in the morning of November 11 the students will hold a gathering at the main university entrance gate.

Iranian news agency IRNA report of the same news on November 11: The student gathering in protest to the death sentence against Hashem Aghajari begun at Tehran's Tarbiyat-e Modarres [teacher's training] University. Some 1,000 students are participating in the gathering which has been organized by the university's Islamic Students' Society. The Islamic Students' Society of Tarbiyat-e Modarres University said that the gathering is being held in protest against the death sentence against Aghajari and to what it called the suppression of freedom-seekers and intellectuals.

Agence France-Presse report of the same news on November 11: Furious protests by Iranian university students over the sentencing to death of a popular pro-reform academic went into their third day. Close to 1,000 students of Hashem Aghajari gathered. "Aghajari knows that his students are vigilant and will defend liberty to the last drop of their blood," the gathering was told as students listened to a recording of one of his lectures. Many students wore portraits of the convicted intellectual. The protest was largely calm, while police kept a distant and discreet eye on the gathering. A group of Aghajari's students at his Tehran teacher training faculty has been on strike since [November 9] and has held a series of protests, some of the largest political gatherings seen here in years.

Iranian news agency IRNA report of the same news [November 11]: Students of the Faculty of Economy of Allameh Tabataba'i staged a sit-in protest against the death sentence issued by a local court in Hamedan against academic Hashem Aghajari. The students condemned the death sentence as unacceptable and a bid to challenge freedom of expression. In his statement to the students in Hamedan, Aghajari had challenged the theory of emulation without reasoning underscoring the need for explanations from religious leaders for the decisions they make on religious matters binding for their followers. The students chanted slogans calling for political freedoms to be respected by organs of the government.

The Islamic Association of Qazvin-based Imam Khomeyni University called for the release of the academic from prison. They called for an immediate freedom of the academic and lifting of the death sentence to end the concerns of the academic centres across the country.

ISNA report of the same news [November 11]: A member of the Islamic Society of Students of the Teacher Training University, Sa'id Razavi-Faqih, speaking at the student gathering held at the university in protest against Hashem Aghajari's sentence, suggested: "I say this to Dr Aghajari, the earth is still round, even if Galileo recants his statements; I state that the truth is clear, common sense and collective wisdom recognizes the truth, even if some people sentence the truth to death and declare it as contrary to the shari'ah."

ISNA report of the same news [November 12]: A number of Shahid Beheshti University students staged a gathering at the Faculty of Letters at mid day to protest against Hashem Aghajari's death sentence. The students taking part at a panel discussion at the Faculty of Arts and Letters of this university said that they will continue their protest until the verdict against Aghajari is revoked. Based on this report, the gathering was disrupted for a few minutes when a few individuals chanted slogans in favour of the death sentence for Aghajari. Similar protests and gatherings have been reported from the other faculties of Shahid Beheshti University.

Reuters report of the same news [November 12]: Thousands of Iranian students ignored official warnings and demonstrated for the fourth day against a dissident's death sentence and to demand freedom of speech and political reform. Some 5,000 students gathered at Tehran University in support of Aghajari. The momentum of protests appeared to be growing, with bigger crowds in Tehran each day and demonstrations spreading to the provincial cities of Tabriz, Isfahan, Urumiyeh and Hamedan. Following their rally in Tehran, students marched through the vast university campus, holding hands and singing "Ey Iran" - a popular nationalist song that pre-dates the 1979 Islamic revolution. When they reached the locked university gates, some tried to force them open and shouted at police and passers-by on the other side. Despite the unusually bold slogans, which included insults against top political figures such as Rafsanjani, watching police did not intervene. "We hope the government and parliament defend the people's vote, otherwise the only option is the resignation of the parliament and president," Meysam Yousefzadeh, a member of Tehran University student council, told the protesters. "Khatami, Khatami, resign, resign," the crowds responded. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a veiled warning to parliament, the government and judiciary to settle their differences. "The day the three branches are unable or unwilling to settle major problems, the (supreme) leadership will, if it thinks it necessary, use the popular forces to intervene," he said. "I hope that will never happen," he said.

The protests have remained almost entirely peaceful, with students and security forces apparently seeking to avoid a repeat of 1999 university unrest in which one person was killed and dozens were arrested and sentenced to long jail terms. But Saeed Babae, secretary of Tehran University student council, said six people were arrested and one was beaten after Monday's protests at another Tehran campus. "We can't tolerate these things any more," he said. "We plan to have these rallies every day until all charges against Aghajari are dropped and the judiciary apologise..." he said.

Agence France-Presse (AFP) report of the same news [November 12]: Student protests sparked by the sentencing to death of a reformist academic took on a wider political dimension, despite a warning from Khamenei to intervene with "popular force". At least 3,000 students gathered at Tehran's university campus chanting slogans on the fourth day of protests. Demonstrators set a more overtly political tone, with some students chanting: "Death to the Taliban, in Kabul and Tehran", "the student movement is ready to revolt" and slogans lambasting the head of the judiciary and Rafsanjani. Police prevented students from moving outside the main Tehran campus and onto the streets, and the demonstrators later dispersed calmly as drizzle set in. Aghajari's leftist group, the Organisation of Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution (OMIR), called for protests to continue but also urged calm. Protests and student strikes have also been reported in other provincial universities, including Isfahan, Tabriz and Kerman.

Iranian news agency IRNA report of the same news [November 12]: A number of students of the Tehran University and the Faculty of Medical Sciences staged a protest gathering in front of the university mosque and protested against Aghajari's death sentence. Some 2,000 students and professors took part in this gathering. The protesters characterized the death sentence against Aghajari as inquisition and gross violation of the constitution. A number of the students of Tehran University who took

part at a protest gathering inside the university, are still behind the university's main gate. After the ceremony [protest gathering], some of the participants began chanting slogans and left Tehran University Mosque towards the main southern gate. However, as they reached the gate, they realized that they were locked in. They therefore gathered behind the gate. Outside the gate, the law-enforcement units are deployed. The police have also surrounded the streets around the university and prevent members of the public from stopping to watch what is happening. Restriction is also imposed on private vehicles passing outside the university gate, between Qods and 16 Azar avenues.

RFE/RL Newline reported of the same news [November 12]: There were events at Kerman's Shahid Bahonar University, 150 student protesters gathered at Urumiyeh University, and other demonstrations were held in Ahvaz, Bushehr, Shiraz, and Yazd. Some professors at Tarbiat Mudariss (Tehran Teachers Training College) have cancelled their classes for a week. Thirty-seven professors serving on the scientific board at Tarbiat Mudariss released a statement on 12 November condemning the verdict.

Student Movement Coordination Committee for Democracy in Iran (SMCCDI) report of the same news [November 12]: In most areas these protests have been reported as non violent. Sporadic clashes and arrests were made in the Enghelab and Amir-Abad area. Same reports with different numbers of students have been transmitted from Hamadan, Oromiah and Mashad so far while more clashes took place in front of Esfahan University. There are also reports of boycotts in high schools.*

Reuters' report of the same news [November 13]: Iranian student leaders pledged no let-up in their five-day-old protests even if the death sentence imposed on Aghajari. Some 2,500 university students rallied in Tehran again. Stamping feet and clapping hands the students chanted: "Long live political prisoners, death to their jailers!" Women in traditional head-to-toe black chadors stood side-by-side at the rally with young men and other girls wearing jeans, make-up and headscarfs pushed well back on their heads. A hangman's noose hung over the speaker's podium. So far the student protests have been limited to university campuses and have not attracted much public attention. They have also been peaceful, thanks largely to the action of police who have prevented radical Islamic volunteers, or Basij, from trying to break up the meetings.

IRNA report of the same news [November 13]: About 1,500 students, who staged a new round of sit-in protest at Amir Kabir University, left the university peacefully. The students at Science and Technology University held another protest against the controversial death sentence.

ISNA report of the same news [November 13]: A group of students at the University of Yazd held a protest meeting and a platform for free speech to express their opposition to the sentence given to Aghajari. The students boycotted their classes, marched on the campus and chanted slogans. They also participated in a free-speech platform to express their opposition to Aghajari's sentence. The ceremony was organized through the efforts of the Yazd University's associations of "Islamic

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Development" and the "Followers of the Line of Imam". During the events more than 500 students wore black arm bands and held placards with the pictures of political prisoners. They chanted: "The derelict house of Judiciary should be rebuilt", "Iran is now like Palestine - People why are you silent?", "Artillery, tank or machine gun is no longer effective - Tell my mother that he no longer has a son".

SMCCDI report of the same news [November 13]: Sporadic clashes took place in Mashad between several students and their supporters as members of the security forces tried to arrest several of them. At least 6 students and their supporters were beaten and brought to the LEF headquarter. The situation at the Ferdowsi University is very tense. Several students of the Qom Azad University were also arrested and brought to the Pasdaran detention center.*

ISNA report of the same news [November 16]: The Islamic societies of students of Yazd University, Tabriz University and the [Tabriz] Medical Sciences University, Esfahan's Industrial University, the Sistan and Baluchestan University's College of Literature and College of Social Sciences, and the Ahvaz Martyr Chamran University, as well as the students union of the University of Science and Industry of Iran, a group of martyrs' children of Ilam University, and the students union of the Electrical Engineering College of Amir Kabir Industrial University, have issued separate statements protesting against the sentence. Student rallies are to be held at universities in Tabriz, Esfahan's Industrial University, the College of Literature of Allameh Tabataba'i University, and Martyr Abbaspur University on November 17.

IRNA report of the same news [November 16]: Peaceful protests against a death sentence for Aghajari resumed on [16 November] as about 1,000 students of the Technical Amir Kabir University demanded the academic's release from jail. "We will continue our protests until Aghajari is released," one organizer of the protest told students who had gathered at the university's campus. He said the students had asked officials of the university to postpone mid-term examinations, which was accepted.

ISNA report of the same news [November 16]: The Iranian Interior Ministry has refused a request from university students to hold a protest march against the death sentence on Aghajari. The students [Allameh wing of the Office for Fostering Unity] had applied for a permit to hold a protest march on Monday 18 November. Their protests over the past week took place within university campuses. An Interior Ministry official said that, in view of the country's "sensitive political conditions" and in view of the fact that the march could be "exploited", the relevant committee at the Interior Ministry had decided to reject the request for a permit for the protest march.

SMCCDI report of the same news [November 14]: Most provincial universities, such as, Najaf-Abad, Esfahan, Zabol, Bandar Abbas, Tabriz, Mashad, Gorgan, Rasht and Shiraz, were affected by partial strikes and protest gatherings.**

AFP report of the same news [November 17]: Members of Iran's Basij militia attacked student activists gathered at a Tehran university campus to protest the death sentence imposed on Aghajari. Hundreds of Basij launched their brief attack in an auditorium Tehran's Allameh campus as a student activist was delivering a speech supporting Aghajari, and defending freedom of speech. The hardline militiamen, who

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numbered around 300, began throwing chairs and smashing up tables inside the hall where some 600 students had gathered. There was no immediate sign of any injuries, and the attack -- which followed a tense two-hour stand-off -- ended after around 10 minutes. Police did not immediately intervene. The rival groups then left the smashed hall for the campus grounds, exchanging slogans.

AFP report of the same news [November 18]: Thousands of Iranian university students defied warnings of a crackdown by stepping their protests demanding greater freedom of speech. At least 5,000 massed at Tehran's Sharif [Industrial University] campus in a continuation of rallies initially sparked by the sentencing to death of Aghajari. In the face of mounting demonstrations and a chorus of criticism of the verdict, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [on November 17] ordered the judiciary to revise the ruling. But a student leader said the intervention did not go far enough in satisfying wider student demands. Police were out in force outside the campus and were restricting entry to the university grounds. Security forces were seen detaining seven people -- including six women -- who refused to cooperate when they prevented a group of protestors gathering outside the campus. A group of several hundred conservatives students were also present inside the campus. Students said similar gatherings were taking place in provincial universities, even though some student leaders had called for an end to the protest action. A number of students suffered light head injuries, while a briefly successful attempt to take to the streets outside by some 500 students was blocked by police. At least 15 people were seen being detained during the day.

A reformist MP and three students have been injured in an attack on protestors by Badsijis in Ahvaz. Armed members of the Basij militia attacked students at the city's Shahid Chamran campus while reformist MP Mohammad Kianoush Rad was delivering a speech. The MP was badly beaten, while three other students were also assaulted and had to be hospitalised. The university's president Safaie Moghadam said the Basiji smashed into the campus with cars and motorcycles, attacking the student gathering that they deemed to be an insult to Khamenei. And as the MP attempted to flee to the city's airport by car, he and two of his companions were again set upon by some 20 Basiji. The injured MP said he would not file a complaint against his attackers. Ahwaz MP Jassem Shadidzadeh accused police of standing by and failing to prevent the attacks.

1,500 students staged a protest in Isfahan, calling for the freeing of political prisoners. Demonstrations also took place in Urumiyeh, Zanjan, Zabol and Kerman. Another militia attack on students was also reported in the southern town of Yassuj.

Iranian newspaper *Etemaad* report of the same news [November 18]: More than 6,000 of the students of Tehran University gathered together at Sharif Industrial University in protest at the death and prison sentences... The gathering led to physical clashes. Almost 300 members of the Student Basij started chanting different slogans and clashed physically with the protesters. During the clashes, those in plainclothes punched and kicked the university students. They then attacked the reporters, photographers and cameramen who were on the scene and tore up the films of a number of photographers. The clashes ended with the intervention of the university's security guards. The Law-Enforcement Force had closed off all the streets leading to Sharif University and even prevented the students of the Sharif University and

correspondents from entering the university. However, the plainclothesmen who had been creating tension and starting clashes at student gatherings, were moving about freely. After the university students ended their gathering and after the clashes inside the university, the plainclothesmen clashed with and beat up the university students in Azadi street at the Behbudi and Navvab junctions. Amidst all this, the plainclothesmen arrested more than 17 university students. Plain-clothesmen beat up the photographer of E'temad newspaper and confiscated his camera card. One of the plain-clothesmen showed his card to the photographer of E'temad newspaper, saying that he was a member of the Ansar group and he then confiscated his camera card. All the plain-clothesmen were carrying walkie-talkies. They were riding motorcycles and they were moving from Sharif University to Enqelab Square.

Reuters report of the same news [November 19]: Some 3,000 members of an Iranian militia demonstrated against pro-reform students who have staged strikes and sit-ins. "Our red lines are the leader and the leadership. We will not remain silent. Passing those red lines has a heavy price," the Tehran University speaker said. "Long live Khamenei," the militia forces responded. The protest by the men and black chador-clad women of the Basij militia at Tehran University came as police tried to lock out thousands of reformist students from another campus and prevent them from holding a rally. Meanwhile across town, police locked some 2,000 pro-reform students out of another university for around two hours until the weight of numbers gathering on the streets outside obliged security forces to let them in. Reformists accuse conservatives of trying to trigger clashes as a pretext for a crackdown and the arrest of top reformers. One deputy warned, in an apparent reference to Khamenei's words, the reformists could also summon popular forces. "We also know how to drag people onto the streets," Jasem Shadidzadeh told parliament. "Right now, we do not consider it to be to the benefit of country, but if one day it is, we will pour people onto the streets to slap their faces."

ISNA report of the same news [November 19]: Around 16:00 hours, several individuals created a disturbance in Tehran's Enqelab [Revolution] Square. Individuals who marched on the northwestern side of Enqelab Square, were clapping their hands and booing, when they were confronted by law-enforcement forces. The individuals who numbered 40 to 50 and were mainly made up of middle age men and women, were dispersed by law-enforcement forces after a few minutes. At least two people, a young man and a woman, were arrested. Several other eye-witnesses, however, spoke of the possible arrest of more than two people.

Iranian newspaper *Iran Daily* report of the same news [November 19]: Over 1,500 members of Student Basij demonstrated on the Tehran University campus against recent incidents. Almost a similar number of students gathered inside the Instructors' Training University amid tightened security to continue their protests against the death verdict for Aghajari. Basiji students dispersed after issuing a communique, which read: "If issues are not resolved (peacefully), we will not keep silent and will directly enter the scene as warned before by the leader of the Islamic revolution." A reporter from 'Iran Daily' was assaulted by vigilantes who had laid siege on the Instructors' Training University, after trying to enter the campus via the main gate. Several police officers stood guard in front of the university, warning young people on adjacent streets from approaching the campus and appealed for calm.

Students, who had managed to enter the university, chanted slogans demanding social and economic justice. They also tried to encourage other students to join. Some climbed fences and trees to find a way in. Placards were held by students condemning attacks on their gatherings by members of the hard-line groups. A number of Ansar-e Hezbollah vigilantes were also seen patrolling the streets around the Instructors' Training University on their motorcycles. Students, however, dispersed peacefully after assembling in front of Aghajari's office at the heart of the university. Both rallies ended peacefully in the evening after the two sides made their views known.

ISNA report of the same news [November 20]: The situation around Tehran University was normal at 15:00. The main gate of the university is open and the people are entering and leaving the campus. The presence of a number of plain-clothes officers and personnel of the law-enforcement force is visible outside the main gate in the street. Eye-witnesses said that the police apparently arrested a handful of people who looked suspicious.

IRNA report of the same news [November 20]: Government spokesman Abdollah Ramezanzadeh said that there have been no reports presented to the Cabinet regarding the arrest of any students during the recent demonstrations.

A free speech platform of the students, which had been scheduled for the evening in Yazd University, was cancelled. It had been arranged by the Association of the Students Islamic Development which has 1,250 members. In a statement the association said: "Since the start of the new academic year we have witnessed various developments including the presence of pressure groups at the meetings of the student followers of the Imam's line and at a demonstration we held to protest against Hashem Aghajari's death sentence. These problems created a tense atmosphere and controversy among the students. In view of the fact that students' rights are not respected and the authorities are not aware of their responsibilities towards maintaining security of the students' gatherings, our association can never establish useful bilateral link with the authorities."

AFP report of the same news [November 22]: At Friday's prayers, "Supreme Leader" Ayatollah Ali Khamenei denounced the mounting protests -- and their increasingly overt political overtones -- in front of hundreds of thousands of worshippers. "While the country needs the young students and the universities to concentrate on science and research, suddenly a group finds a pretext and tries to prevent the university students and researchers from carrying out their normal work," Khamenei said. "Are these actions not the work of the enemy?" he asked. "Three years ago, corrupt people did the same thing with the students," the supreme leader said. "But the people, with calm and force, showed their strength on the ground."

Further students protests were broken up after clashes in the southern city of Shiraz and the northeastern city of Mashhad, dozens were detained.

ISNA report of the same news [November 24]: Some 100 students of the Science and Technology University gathered outside the doors of the university and protested against the Hashem Aghajari's sentence. Arash Pahlevan-Nasir, secretary of the university's Islamic Association of Students, confirmed the report and said: "We intended to hold a legal gathering in the university. However, we were not given a

permit. So we decided not to hold a gathering. As a result, the said gathering was not organized by the Islamic Association.”

Iranian newspaper *Entekhab* report of the same news [November 24]: Students are continuing to hold protest gatherings in response to Hashem Aghajari's sentence and it is being said that these gatherings will continue until 16 Azar [7 December; Student Day, commemorating the death of three student demonstrators shot by troops during a visit by Nixon to Iran in 1953]. Abdollah Mo'meni, a member of the OFU's Allameh wing, said: “The OFU's central council does not have a programme for continuing the protest rallies, but the Islamic Associations of different universities are independently organizing some gatherings...” A gathering was to have been held at the Martyr Beheshti University and the Science and Technology University. Although students congregated there, a permit was not issued for these gatherings. He added: “The OFU's central council (Allameh Tabataba'i wing) will hold gatherings under various headings during the nights of Qadr [marking the anniversary of Imam Ali's martyrdom]”.

Reuters report of the same news [November 25]: Iranian authorities have urged students to halt demonstrations against a dissident's death sentence and said his case is to be reviewed after the largest pro-reform protests in Iran for more than three years. The call followed a warning from leading reformists to the students that powerful conservatives planned to impose emergency rule if the university protests got out of hand. "The Supreme National Security Council... decided we should not have any more gatherings and we are insisting not to have gatherings as much as possible," deputy Higher Education Minister Gholam Reza Zarifian said. But at least one student leader, Abdollah Momeni from OFU, said there would be more campus meetings.

November 10

Two Iranian MPs resign in protest against academic's death sentence. (IRNA)

Two MPs from the western province of Hamedan, where a court sentenced university professor Hashem Aghajari to death, resigned in protest to the verdict. Hoseyn Loqmanian, whose imprisonment this year turned into an impasse between the parliament and judiciary, and Mohammad Reza Ali-Hoseyni formally submitted their resignation to the parliament's presiding board.

Majlis approves outlines of Presidential Powers Bill. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

The Iranian parliament approved the outline of a bill that would increase the executive branch's powers by giving the president the right to warn and punish officials in the executive, legislative, or judicial branches. It would also empower a committee of experts chosen by the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary to overrule court verdicts. This legislation is likely to encounter opposition from the Guardians Council.

Writer Amir Abbas Fakhavar convicted. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court on or around 10 November sentenced 27-year-old Amir Abbas Fakhavar -- a journalist who worked for the now-banned pro-reform dailies *Mosharekat* and *Khordad* -- to eight years in prison. Fakhavar said that he was convicted for his book *Inja Chah Nist (This Place Is Not a Ditch)*, which was a finalist

for the 2001-02 Paulo Coelho Literary Prize. Fakhravar said that in the last year he was arrested four times and tortured. Fakhravar has 20 days to appeal the sentence, which is particularly severe because he was accused of criticizing the Supreme Leadership.

Student activist's body found. (SMCCDI)*

The body of a killed student-activist named Rouh-Ollah Gholami was found dumped under a highway bridge in the center of Tehran. The head of the victim, aged of 23 years, shows traces of ill-treatment. Gholami was known for his active role in moderate religious student circles. He recently disappeared on his way to the university and his family or friends did not had any news from him. The official report claims that the death was caused by "bandits."

Women protest in downtown Shiraz. (SMCCDI)**

Several women and young girls gathered in downtown Shiraz to protest the harrasments by members of the local Bassidj and the lack of proper utilities for them. The action was staged in front of the Fars Governor Office, but the governor refused to show up. The security forces surrounded the area. No clash or arrest was reported.

November 11

Imprisoned polling institute head said not in good condition. (Iranian newspaper *Iran*)

Seyyed Ali Akbar Musavi-Kho'ini, MP for Tehran stated that, in his recent meeting with his family, Behruz Geranpayeh was accompanied by prison officials. At the meeting Geranpayeh was not allowed to talk about the place where he was being held and what he had said in the course of interrogations. He said: "In our latest contacts with the Prisons Organization officials they said once again that they did not know where Behruz Geranpayeh and Hoseyn Qazian [head of another opinion poll institute] were being held under arrest. They said that these individuals were not handed over to any one of the centres under the supervision of Prisons Organization."

Amnesty International comment on the same news: Dr Hossein Ghaziyan, university lecturer and director of the Ayandeh Research Group, Behrouz Geranpayeh, journalist and Director of the National Institute for Research and Opinion Polls, Abbas Abdi, journalist, Mohsen Goudarzi, director of the National Plan for Assessing Iranians' Opinions and Values, were detained in connection with an opinion poll on US-Iranian relations carried out by the Ayandeh Research Group and published by the government-run news agency IRNA on 22 September. The polling organization have since been closed down according to an order by the judiciary. Their families do not know where they are being held. There are fears that Mohsen Goudarzi may also be in danger due to his professional connection with the other detainees. Member of Parliament Seyyed Ali Akbar Moussavi Khoieni stated that Dr Hossein Ghaziyan and Behrouz Geranpayeh are "under considerable pressure", and that both men are being held in an "illegal military prison". This is

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

** Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

widely thought to be Prison 66, in north Tehran, which is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards.

Violent clashes in Esfahan reported. (SMCCDI)*

Violent clashes reportedly rocked Esfahan in the evening as several militia attacked a peaceful gathering in the "Masjed Seyed". Slogans, such as, "Baradar e Bassdji, tche ra baradar koshi" (Brother Bassidji, why are you killing your brother?) were shouted by the crowd who walked toward the Darvaze Shiraz area, where special forces intervened to smash the gathering. Several people have been injured and arrested.

Majlis member Khatami receives licence for new monthly publication. (ISNA)

The monthly *Ayin* [Custom] has been granted a licence for publication. The managing editor of the monthly is Deputy Majlis Speaker Mohammad Reza Khatami, and its licence-holder the [Islamic Iran] Participation Front.

November 12

Workers join protests in several cities. (SMCCDI)**

According to SMCCDI, hundreds of workers joined the protests by staging rallies in front of several governmental offices in cities such as Ahwaz and Esfahan. Slogans, such as, "Nan, Kar, Maskan" (Bread, Work, Home) and "In hame Bi-Edalati, hargaz nadide mellati" (So much injustices never seen by any people) were shouted by the protesters. The security forces closed all access to these gatherings.

Majlis member Khatami receives licence for new monthly publication. (ISNA)

The special squad of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps for enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice arrested a number of students at the Islamic Azad [Open] University of Qom. For the past 10 days or so, the students of the Islamic Azad University in Qom have been protesting against the arrival of the vehicles belonging to the vice and virtue squad of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps inside the university. Members of the squad then entered classrooms in the university to arrest boy and girl students for various reasons. There has been also rumours that the students are planning to stage a sit-in to protest against the performance of the university's security authorities and the head of the security service in particular. Several students asked: "Do the authorities expect the boy and girl students not to talk to each other even when they have to discuss scientific subjects of their studies?"

Iranian hanged publicly for rape, kidnapping. (AFP)

An Iranian man found guilty of kidnapping and rape has been publicly hanged in the city of Qom. The condemned man, identified as 21-year Ali Eskandari, was executed for "two kidnappings and acts contrary to good custom", a euphemism for rape. His execution brought to 26 the number reported by the press since the beginning of October.

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

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Kurdistan local newspaper inserts banned. (RFE/RL *Newsline*)

Hiwa Qavami, a reporter from the Kurdistan Province town of Sanandaj, stated that the local judiciary banned local newspaper distributors from carrying special inserts from reformist publications like *Hayat-e No* and *Iran*. The reason for this was given to be that the inserts carried a great deal of news about the government's activities and they also were geared toward Kurdish issues and local concerns, according to Qavami, but the judiciary cited national-security concerns and said such news excites the local population. It is not just reformist publications that carry special inserts. *Jam-i Jam*, which is affiliated with the official Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, every Wednesday carries an eight-page, full-color insert that is dedicated to Kurdistan Province and will continue to be allowed to do so. Qavami speculated that the judiciary wants *Jam-i Jam* to be the dominant publication in the local press.

November 13

Head of Gorgan University's security shot by bullets. (SMCCDI)*

Khodadad Izad, head of the Gorgan University Security (Farsi: 'Herrasat'), was shot in the evening by unidentified assailants. Izad is under medical treatment at the city hospital.

Shiraz students statement says two arrested by plain-clothed officials. (ISNA)

The Islamic Students Association of Shiraz and Medical Sciences [in Shiraz] universities issued a statement reporting clashes among participants in a student meeting. The statement said that some individuals, known as plain-clothed [officials], followed some members of the Islamic Students Association and some of the organizers of the meeting and beat them up as they were making their way to the student hostel. The statement also claimed that the said [plain-clothed] individuals arrested two students who were among the organizers of the meeting. The head of Fars Governorate's political department, Shahhoseyni, however, dismissed claims that individuals had been arrested. He said that some clashes had taken place away from the place of the meeting, but no-one was arrested, and there were no problems.

November 15

Azeri journalist allegedly disappeared. (Azerbaijani newspaper *Yeni Musavat*)**

The journalist of the newspapers *Shamsi-Tabriz* and *Navidi Azarbayjan* (Urmiya), Ali Suleymani, was kidnapped earlier in November 2002. His family and the public are still unaware of his whereabouts. Suleymani wrote articles mainly on the ancient history of Azeris, the restoration of the rights of national minorities in Iran, human rights and democracy. In connection with Ali Suleymani's kidnapping, the board of the United Azerbaijan Association [UAA] has addressed the Union of Editors.

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

** Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

November 16

Majlis will reconsider bills on media trials and ban on satellite dishes. (AFP and RFE/RL *Newsline*)

Iran's Guardians Council rejected a bill that would require juries for all political and media-related trials. The bill has been sent back to parliament, but if the legislature refuses to amend it further, the Expediency Council would have to arbitrate.

The legislature will also begin consideration of a bill to lift the ban on satellite dishes and receivers. If that is approved, a committee chaired by the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry and including representatives of the ministries of Intelligence and Security; Interior; and Post, Telegraph, and Telephone; and from the official Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) would determine which channels are safe for viewing. The ban against satellite dishes was passed in 1995, but the law is only sporadically enforced, and satellite television is very popular. The legislature considered ending the satellite-dish ban one year ago but failed to do so.

November 19

Iraq resumes broadcasts to Mojahedin-e Khalq. (London-based newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*)

Iraqi authorities resumed Persian radio and television broadcasting dedicated to the Iranian opposition organization, Mojahedin-e Khalq (PMOI). The Iraqi television - the main channel - dedicates one hour of its morning broadcasting to the Iranian programme, in addition to nightly broadcasting.

November 20

Iranian girls married to Afghans no longer recognized as Iranian citizens. (Reuters)

Iranian authorities state that women who are married to Afghans are regarded, according to Afghan law, as Afghan nationals and that they will have to return home with their spouses.

Theological student detained in Mashhad. (ISNA)

A theological student in the city of Mashhad, Seyyed Musa Mirshad Valad, was detained last week. Regarding the detention and the trial of the student, the prosecutor-general at the Special Clerical Court for the Eastern Regions of the Country said that he could not comment about this theological student before the trial.

Newspaper suspended, fined for corrupting youth. (AFP)

A court suspended and fined the weekly newspaper *Nameh Qazvin*, printed in the city of Qazvin, for "encouraging immorality and indecency". It was also accused of "undermining revolutionary spirit", and was ordered to pay three million rials (375 US dollars) and to halt publication for three months. However, the paper's managing director and city council member, Ali Shahrouzi, escaped the maximum penalties of flogging and a jail term.

November 22

Clashes and arrests at commemoration of killed dissidents. (Reuters)

Dozens of people were arrested and several hurt in clashes in three Iranian cities when the anniversary of a dissident's murder added impetus to the largest pro-reform protests for three years. At least a dozen people, some of them local journalists, were arrested and several punched and kicked by Islamic militiamen in Tehran as about 5,000 people started chanting "Political prisoners must be freed". In Mashhad, 60 people were arrested at a pro-reform rally and another 25 were detained in the city Shiraz. The large Tehran gathering in honour of Dariush Forouhar - a nationalist stabbed to death at home along with his wife in 1998 by Intelligence Ministry agents - was the first reformist rally in the last two weeks not led by students. It was also the first to be forcibly broken up by security forces. At the memorial service for Forouhar at a mosque in southern Tehran, crowds of people of mixed ages and backgrounds defied police orders to disperse and began chanting reformist slogans. Plainclothes police and militiamen mingled with the crowd, occasionally lashing out with punches, kicks and baton blows at young men who led the chants. Later, as the crowds tried to follow Forouhar's family to their nearby home, a line of riot police blocked their path. They fired at least three tear gas canisters and made several baton charges into the crowd, which then dispersed.

ISNA report of the same news: At 15:40, about 150 people were guided by the Law-Enforcement Force (LEF) to leave Zahir O-Eslam avenue towards the lower parts of the avenue. They moved, but after going down by 100 metres they turned back. As a result traffic movement along the avenue was blocked. Few minutes later the plain-clothed individuals attacked this group. The plain-clothed individuals gathered outside Khaneqah at 16:00. One of them was carrying a leather belt and a camera. He took pictures of everyone entering and leaving Khaneqah. At 16:25, the LEF ordered a group of people numbering more than a thousand to leave Safiali Shah Avenue. They agreed to move collectively while chanting the following slogans: "Political prisoners must be released. We support you, the students. The people's slogan is referendum. Independence, freedom and popular government". The LEF personnel asked them several times to stop chanting slogans. They were also warned that they may face problems further down the street. But a large number of these people continued moving along the road. After arriving at Baharestan Square, they turned to the Islamic Republic Avenue. At the T-junction, they began chanting slogans. At 16:30 the plain-clothed individuals attacked the demonstrators as they were moving towards the Islamic Republic Avenue. They attacked the demonstrators from behind and dispersed them. Afterwards the plain-clothed individuals began chanting the following slogans themselves "Bravo and God bless you Hezbollah. Death to hypocrites. Where are coward cissies and wimps now? We know they have crawled into their holes like rats." The LEF, with few officers, were present at the Islamic Republic Avenue. They were calling on the people to leave the place so as to avoid clashes. But some of the passers-by were standing to watch. By 17:00 everyone had left gradually and the situation returned to normal.

Iranian newspaper *Aftab-e Yazd* report of the same news [23 November]: The Law Enforcement Force commander for Greater Tehran said that "more than 30 people who committed illegal acts near the place where a memorial service was held

for the late Foruhar and his wife were arrested but released last night. He said: "Following a call by the counter-revolutionaries a limited number of people gathered around the place where a memorial service was being held for the late Foruhar and his wife with the intention of disturbing the proceedings." Tala'i also said reports about the arrest of Fariborz Ra'is-Dana, a lecturer at Tehran University who had spoken at the service, "was totally false".

Iranian newspaper *Hayat-e Now* report of the same news: Director-general of the Judiciary Department in Fars Province said that 25 demonstrators have been arrested in Shiraz. A rally was held in Shiraz marking memorial day for Daryush Foruhar. The rally which created a tense situation and led to clashes between the two sides left a number of people injured. The rally was under the control of the Special Guard of the LEF and plain-clothes officers. The local [Security] Council announced that the rally at the Daneshju [Student] Square in Shiraz was illegal and the clashes occurred because of that.

ISNA report of the same news: Some 1500 students and ordinary members of the public held a rally in one of the main squares of Mashhad to mark the anniversary of the murders of the Foruhars. The gathering did not have the necessary permit and the LEF initially tried to persuade the participants to leave but finally used tear gas and spray while blocking the adjacent streets to end the rally and this led to clashes with some of the participants. When the participants came up against the LEF they held a march without placards. The plain-clothe security forces took control of the area after arresting more than 60 people and guiding the demonstrators to the nearby allies. A group of [vigilante] protesters were also present in the area. Separated into two groups, one on motorbikes and the other on foot, they carried red flags and assaulted some demonstrators. They also had a large number of cameras and were taking pictures and filming the crowd. In a number of cases the harsh attitude of certain members of the LEF, and at times the beating of the demonstrators, created a tense atmosphere. For a number of hours later the nearby streets were filled with people as the plain-cloth motorcyclists were manoeuvring. The area was surrounded by anti-riot forces. The area of confrontation was opposite the Ferdowsi University and a number of students who had learnt of the confrontation gradually joined the protesters chanting slogans. Then they left the campus through the main gate and marched in the street. Furthermore, the monarchists had been distributing pamphlets for two days in Mashhad calling on the people to join the gathering. Azizollah Kheradmand, the governor of Mashhad, said that the elements engaged in arresting the demonstrators were plain-cloth security-intelligence forces. He said that the LEF also forcefully put an end to chanting by pressure groups and the Ansar Hezbollah, led by Hamid Ostad, and prevented them from gathering in the area. The operational commander of the LEF in the area said that the arrests in the morning were not political. Commander Akbeya said: "These people had gathered illegally and a number of agitators were detained but they were all released after giving the necessary assurances." The ISNA correspondent's tape recorder, tape and press card were confiscated.

November 23

Court sentences 12 people to death in Mashhad for setting up brothels. (IRNA)

A court in Mashhad sentenced 12 alleged members of the 'Vultures' gang to death on various charges. Bench 19 of Mashhad court had passed various sentences for some 50 members of the 145-strong group, while others had been released on bail. The judge dealing with the case, Mohammad Qaruni, as saying that seven of the convicts on death row had appealed, adding that some 15 women who acted as "middlewomen" and headed brothels had received five-year prison terms as well as lashes. Qaruni added that some 50 "street women" had been arrested in connection with the gang. "The Vultures", he said, had been convicted of several charges that included setting three brothels, spread of corruption, and forging documents. Qaruni also said some 12 AK-47 rifles, pistols as well as a large amount of ammunition had been seized from the gang. The judge further said that gang members, who had set up a network throughout Mashhad, identified runaway girls, and induced them to join "the Vultures".

Opposition network smashed in Lorestan. (SMCCDI)*

An alleged armed opposition network was smashed in Khorram-Abad, the Lorestan province. Security forces stormed the building and arrested members of the group after a short exchange of fire. Access to the perimeter was closed but noise of the shooting was heard before ambulances go to the scene.

November 25

Student leader, arrested for "insulting martyrs", released. (ISNA)

Iraj Ershadkhah, the secretary of the Urumiyeh University Students' Association, who had been arrested on charges of "insulting martyrs and sanctities", was released. He was arrested following a complaint by a member of the Urumiyeh Basij Force, and later released after the legal affairs supervisor of the university stood as guarantor.

Journalist granted five-day prison leave. (ISNA)

Emadeddin Baqi was released from Evin Prison in the evening for a five-day leave. The reason stated for the leave is his father's illness and the possibility of spending the nights of Qadr [nights commemorating Imam Ali's martyrdom] at home.

November 26

Fifty "offenders" lashed in public in Bandar Abbas. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

On the orders of the General Court of Bandar Abbas, the punishment of 50 offenders has been carried out in public. These individuals had been sentenced to 20 to 80 lashes each and 700,000 rials [100 dollars] in fines on charges of gambling, the purchase and sale of material used in gambling, "the purchase and sale of vulgar

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

videos, audiocassettes and CDs”, “harassment”, and “conspicuous eating in public during the [Ramadan] fasting period”.

November 27

Detained student activists released. (IRNA, Reuters and RFE/RL *Newsline*)

Four activists from the pro-reform student movement Office for Fostering Unity were released from custody in Tehran following a court ruling. The court had ordered that the four men -- Said Razavi Faqih, Abdullah Momeni, Akbar Atri, and Amir Hussein Balali -- be detained for their alleged roles in leading recent student protests that broke out after university Professor Hashem Aghajari was sentenced to death. The four are accused of "insulting the president, blasphemy, and taking measures against national security," according to "a reliable source" closely associated with the individuals. The activists will reportedly go to court on 30 November to face the charges.

ISNA report of the same news [November 26]: Tehran's deputy governor-general for political-security affairs has confirmed that a number of student activists have been arrested on the orders of Bench 26 of Tehran Province's Revolution Court. He said that the arrests were connected with the recent days' student rallies and added: “There is information suggesting that a number of others will also be arrested. He said that four people had been arrested so far: Abdollah Mo'meni and Sa'id Razavi-Faqih, two members of the central council of the Allameh wing of the Office for Fostering Unity; Amir Hoseyn Balali, a member of the Islamic Association of Students of Amir Kabir University; and Akbar Atri, a former member of the central council of the OFU.

***Hayat-e Now* report of the same news [November 28]:** The Deputy Minister of Science in charge of student affairs has said that he has no information about the recent arrest of certain student activists. He pointed out that the arrests were made near the Student Day, and said: “The arrests were made against the ratification of the Supreme Council of National Security.” Zarifian said that the recent arrests had been made without any coordination with other organizations, including the Ministry of Information.

***Hayat-e Now* report of the same news [December 1]:** [Mehdi] Aminzadeh said their case has been referred from the Revolution Court to the Information Ministry. The Ministry reportedly intends to investigate the case further. Telling about how he was arrested and interrogated, he said: “I was arrested while leaving my home. Then, I was blindfolded and taken to an unknown location. While I was being questioned, I was constantly insulted.”

November 30

Judge says young women and men should not be arrested in the streets. (AFP)

According to a judge, Iran's police is not authorised to arrest young unmarried couples seen in the streets anymore. "The police forces are not allowed to stop and question young boys and girls seen together in the streets, as in the past, unless there is a private complaint filed against them", a Tehran judge said. "Police stations have been

ordered to immediately free those detainees and officers who do not observe this law will be seriously reacted", the judge said.

New wave of campaign against satellite dishes in Tehran. (*Etemaad*)

It has been reported that in some areas of Tehran [Law Enforcement Force] officers go to houses which have satellite aerials, confiscate the satellite dish from the roof of the house and then hand a summon to the owner of the satellite dish.

Student still under detention. (*IRNA*)

Arash Keykhosravi, who was arrested during the memorial ceremony held for Daryush and Parvaneh Foruhar, is still being held under custody. Arash Keykhosravi's mother said that his son is a law student who was arrested during the memorial ceremony, and was not been released yet.

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