

Chronology of Events in Iran, February 2002*

February 3

Hadi Hashemi bailed out. (Agence France Press / AFP)

A clergyman close to Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri was released under bail. Hadi Hashemi, Montazeri's son-in-law, was arrested in July 2001 with several other clergymen in the holy city of Qom. He was authorized "to leave only for a few weeks" but "he did not return to prison". The cleric is the brother of Mehdi Hashemi, a pro-Montazeri activist who was executed in 1986 after being sentenced to death for "plotting against the Islamic regime". Hadi Hashemi was arrested in July 2001 on an order by the Special Court for Clergy (SCC), which only deals with charges against clerics. At least seven other clerics, including Ayatollah Montazeri's son, Said, were arrested by SCC on the charge of "acts against national security". Said Montazeri was released in the summer of 2001 after being accused of circulating a report on the 1998 murders of dissidents, which led to three members of Iran's intelligence services being sentenced to death. The dissident Ayatollah Montazeri, once tipped to succeed Imam Khomeini as the country's supreme leader and later disgraced in a power struggle shortly before the latter's death in 1989, is placed under house arrest and banned from any contact with the press. President Mohammad Khatami's pro-reform camp has repeatedly called for lifting restrictions on the 80-year-old cleric.

Reformists intimidated in Hormozgan Province (Iranian newspaper *Norooz*)

The Islamic Iran Participation Front of Hormozgan Province has released a statement about the cases of assault and psychological harassment against the front's members by a number of unidentified individuals. The organisation's statement says: "The episode began with an attack against one of the activists in the youth branch of the Participation Front. A group attacked at night time and battered him, his brother and their mother and damaged part of their home. But this was not the end of it. After some time telephone threats began to be made against Ahmad Kaza'i, chairman of Hormozgan region Participation Front and a member of Bandar Abbas Islamic City Council." Following a closed door session of the Majlis and the discussions about the claims of Mohammad Nazemzadeh of Qom about his abduction, a committee of seven Majlis deputies has been established to investigate the issue.

Confrontation between Majlis and Armed Forces Judicial Organization leaders on the death of Sa'id Emami. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-yi Islami*)

Head of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization (AFJO) Mohammad Niyazi responded to Majlis Speaker Mehdi Karrubi's comments on the alleged suicide of

* *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*

Sa'id Emami, the prime suspect in the 1998 serial murders, and the interrogation of other suspects in the case. Karrubi had recently said that officials should beware that Shahram Jazayeri, the main suspect in the ongoing economic corruption case, is not taken to the bathroom and given the same hair-removing powder that Emami had reportedly consumed to commit suicide.

BBC Monitoring Service's comment on the same news: A group of reformist members of the Iranian parliament has called for the establishment of a special fact-finding commission to investigate the killings of four Iranian dissidents in 1998. Some highly sensitive and damaging videotapes have recently been leaked out of Iranian prisons which appear to show that violence was used to force a group of intelligence officials to admit that they killed the dissidents on the orders of foreign intelligence agencies. The videotapes appear to have been made to support the view that foreign security services were involved in the murders and to absolve the conservative authorities of any responsibility. And those who made the videos apparently intended to show an edited version to the public by cutting out scenes in which violence was used. The reformist MPs in the Majlis also want to know what really happened to the main suspect in the killings, [Sa'id] Emami, who mysteriously died in prison two years ago. Although the authorities announced that he committed suicide, the reformists suspect that he was killed in an attempt to bury his links with senior conservative officials who probably ordered the killings of the dissidents.

February 4

Majlis members act on student disappearances. (Iranian newspaper *Norooz*)

Following the disappearance of a number of students and the arrest of a number of others, some deputies have decided to see judicial officials, including Mohseni-Ezhe'i, the head of the Special Clerical Court and the Judicial Complex for Government Employees. It is reported that, two days after Javad Rahimpur's disappearance from Allameh Tabataba'i University, Bench 4 of the Revolution Court announced that he was at the disposal of this bench. After him, Mehdi Fakhzadeh, a student at Martyr Raja'i University, and then Arman Ramazanpur disappeared.

Protest over Khorasan split in Sabzevar. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-yi Islami*)

Shopkeepers in Sabzevar, a city in the northeastern province of Khorasan, closed their stores to protest the parliament's 3 February legislation on dividing Khorasan Province into three smaller provinces. The new bill creates a Northern Khorasan Province, with Bojnurd as its capital; a Southern Khorasan province, with Birjand as its capital; and Mashhad, which currently is the capital of Khorasan Province, would be capital of Khorasan Razavi Province. Sabzevarians hoped for the creation of a West Khorasan in which their city would be the capital, and August 2001 riots over this issue were suppressed violently by security forces. The new bill requires approval by the Guardians Council.

February 6

Reformist deputy Hossein Loghmanian prosecuted again. (AFP)

Reformist deputy Hossein Loghmanian, who was jailed in [December 2001] and freed [in January 2002], was called on again to answer "new charges" before Iran's conservative-dominated courts. A letter by one of the courts was sent to Iran's reform-majority parliament ordering Loghmanian to appear before it to answer a fresh batch of charges. Some 60 more Iran parliament members, out of a total 290, are still being prosecuted by the conservative-controlled courts, parliamentary sources say.

February 8

Strike in Esfahan. (Iranian Students News Agency / ISNA)

About 100 workers of Esfahan's Bafnaz [Textile] Factory staged a protest by burning car tyres outside the factory's gate in Chahar Bagh Street of Esfahan. They were protesting because they have not been paid for the past five months. According to reports, the protesters demanded payment of the amount promised to them during the inspection of the factory by [Ali Khamene'i in the summer of 2001].

February 10

Student, member of Iran People's Democratic Front was kidnapped. (Iranian website Marzeporgohar)*

Dr. Farzad Hamidi, another activist in the student section of Iran People's Democratic Front, was kidnapped from his home at midnight. Dr. Hamidi asked the plain clothes agents who entered his house to produce an arrest warrant, but they replied "our arrest warrant is the verbal command of Alizadeh", the Tehran judge from the Islamic judiciary.

A convict has fingers amputated in public. (Reuters)

An Iranian thief had four fingers of his right hand amputated in public in the northern town of Kelardasht. The man, aged 35, had been convicted of eight counts of robbery. Under Iran's Islamic law, repeat offenders face amputation of their fingers for theft, but sentences are seldom carried out, especially in public

February 11

Students fast in honour of imprisoned colleagues. (ISNA)

A group of students in the Ferdowsi and Medical Science universities of Mashhad observed a day of fasting to protest against the plight of their imprisoned classmates.

* Editor's Note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources. (See also Iran Press Service report of February 19 below).

February 12

Corruption case held in Tehran (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty RFE/RL Iran Report)

The fourth session of the trial of Jazayeri was held in Tehran. And although the case is, as Tehran Justice Department head Hojatoleslam Abbas Ali Alizadeh said, very complicated, the initial excitement seems to have worn off. State media promptly broadcast the names Jazayeri mentioned in the court, regardless of the existence of proof, thereby implicating the individuals. The Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) denied that the Jazayeri case dealt with national security and said that it is not involved. Judiciary spokesman Hussein Mir-Mohammad-Sadeqi, however, claimed that the MOIS has been working on the case all along and had access to all the relevant files. These developments led to complaints that the trial really was about politics, not corruption.

New reformist daily *Bonyan* started publication. (RFE/RL Iran Report)

The first issue of *Bonyan* daily hit the newsstands. Its managing editor is Seyyed Mohsen Ashrafi, who previously worked with the *Sobh-i Imruz* and *Bahar* dailies, and reformist activist Alireza Alavi-Tabar is on its editorial board.

February 13

Member of the Majlis sentenced. (Iranian newspaper *Iran*)

The Majlis deputy for Andimeshk has been found guilty by judge Daqiqi, head of Bench 1403 of Tehran's General Court, of deliberate assault and slander against a person by the name of Seyyed Jalal Sa'adat. The Majlis deputy was sentenced to pay 100,000 rials as a fine for the slander, and to pay 2 per cent of the total blood money for the injury to the face and 0.3 per cent of the blood money for the bruise to the face, within a year of the date of the incident.

Opposition journalists harassed. (RFE/RL Iran Report & AFP)

Several Iranian journalists recently were summoned by and interrogated at a Tehran police unit called the *Edareh-yi Amaken Omumi* (Public Establishments Office), which deals with [moral issues] like listening to music and lewd behavior. Among the journalists who faced questioning are *Jameh-yi Salem* Editor Firuz Garan, *Guzarish-i Film* Editor in Chief Nushabeh Amiri, *Guzarish-i Film* journalist Hushang Assadi, and Ali Dehbashi, the editor of the suspended publications *Kilk* and *Bukhara*.

It was reported that the men who interrogated Firuz Garan were not in uniforms and had nothing to do with the security forces. They insulted him and also asked him about Siamak Purzand, a journalist who was jailed in January 2002. Garan was also questioned about his interviews with foreign radio stations. Vice President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Ali Abtahi stated that the Public Establishments Office has no business summoning journalists.

The seventh court hearing for *Norooz* daily publisher and parliamentarian Mohsen Mirdamadi was also held. He was taken to task for more of his writings, while

national religious activists who attended the hearing complained about the conditions of their imprisonment.

Majlis approved the bill on custody of children. (Reuters)

Iran's reformist majority parliament approved the guidelines of a bill which gives mothers the custody of all their children until they are seven. Under the present law, based on the Islamic Shari'a code, divorced women can keep their boys only until they are two and girls until they are seven. The bill still needs to be worked out in detail in parliament and win final approval from the Guardian Council.

Imprisoned leader of Participation Front gets another sentence. (ISNA)

Hoseyn Mojahed -the leader of Islamic Iran's Participation Front in Hamedan region who is passing his sentence in prison in Hamedan - was sentenced to 91 days in prison after action by the public prosecutor accusing him of inciting the public, because he had put up a banner complaining about the way the Judiciary treated the Majlis deputy for Hamedan. He has been in jail since 27 Azar [18 December]. The second dossier was for insulting the judge while issuing the first sentence, but it is now being appealed.

February 14

A student convicted of ordinary crime hanged down in public in Qazvin. (AFP)

It was reported that a student convicted of murdering a classmate who snubbed his offer of marriage was hanged in public in the western town of Takestan in Qazvin province.

National Liberation Movement of Southern Azerbaijan leader complains about the Azeri situation in Iran. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

Tabriz-based ethnic Azeri dissident Mahmudali Chehragani recently described the situation his co-ethnics face in Iran... in the 14 February issue of Copenhagen's *Berlingske Tidende*. Chehragani described the lack of Azeri education, broadcast media, and publications. Chehragani said that his movement has several hundred thousand supporters, especially in the universities, and some of its leaders are in prison.

Chehragani's attempt to register for the 18 February 2000 parliamentary election allegedly was prevented by the authorities, and he and his supporters in the National Liberation Movement of Southern Azerbaijan (NLMSA) subsequently faced numerous legal problems... Chehragani was removed from the NLMSA leadership for having stated that he would struggle for the autonomy of southern Azerbaijan within the Iranian state and in line with the Iranian constitution, Baku's *525 Gazet* reported on 22 January.

February 17

Student organization protests kidnapping, beating of member. (ISNA)

The Islamic Students Society of Alameh Tabataba'i's School of Literature and Foreign Languages has sent a fax protesting the kidnapping and beating of its secretary in charge of political affairs by unknown individuals. The society's secretary in charge of political affairs, Mohammad Sa'idzadeh was kidnapped and physically assaulted by unknown individuals in Qods (Gharb) township [northwestern Tehran] and later released around Farahzadi Boulevard [north of Qods township].

February 18

Student leader summoned to the court. (Islamic Republic News Agency / IRNA)

Ex-leading member of the student movement Office for Fostering Unity (OFU) Ali Afshari said his guarantor had informed him that he had to report to the court on February 18 to serve a one-year prison term. Afshari said he will not appear at the court without an official summon being handed down to him. He expressed surprise that he was to serve the sentence after one year and a half from his detention. The Court of Appeals last December convicted Afshari to one year imprisonment on charges of propagating against the Islamic republic and endangering state security in his speech at a Berlin conference in April 2000 and also for proposing to set up a counter-crisis headquarters at an OFU meeting. Afshari said his current sentence was politically motivated and lacked constitutional basis, adding that the former Head of the Appeals Court Ali Bakhshi had earlier cleared him of the charges. Afshari said he had asked the state public prosecutor to implement Article 268 in his case in January 2002, but said he had received no response. Under Article 268 of the law on procedural regulations of Iranian public and revolutionary courts in punitive cases, if the State Supreme Court accepts an appeal, the sentence passed by the preliminary court will be discontinued, and the case will be referred to the Supreme Court.

February 19

Two hanged, two more face hanging to "teach others a lesson". (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*)

The head of Kerman's Justice Department, Gholam Hoseyn Heydari, held a news conference to announce that in accordance with the endorsement of the Supreme Court two young men will be hanged in public [in the evening of February 20]. The two have been convicted of "pursuing satanic thoughts, kidnapping women and girls and creating fear and anxiety among the people in Kerman". He added: "These two men are named Amir Hoseyn Mashti, son of Mohammad; and Ali Soltani, son of Eshaq. They were arrested on 17 and 18 Aban [8 and 9 November 2001], and after the process of an open and a closed trial, they confessed to the crimes. As a result the lower court of Kerman sentenced them to death by hanging. The file was sent to the Supreme Court for endorsement. Following the approval of the Supreme Court on 20 Bahman 1380 [9 February 2002], the two guilty men will be hanged in Azadi Square

in the evening of [20 February]. They will be hanged in public so as “to teach others a lesson”.

Heydari also said that “Another bandit, named Ali Dozd [Ali, the Thief] or Ali Saddam, was engaged in acts of violence and banditry. He had created extreme fear and anxiety among the public by kidnapping, raping and murdering women in various regions including Golbaf. He was hanged in public in Anduhjerd”.

**Detention and harassment campaign against students and opposition figures.
(Iranian opposition website Iran Press Service)***

A new wave of pressure has been waged against the intelligentsia and students by the Office of Public Places [Farsi: *Amaken*], as part of the Law Enforcement Forces (LEF). The latest known incidents involved student activists Mohammad Sa'idzadeh and Farzad Hamidi, lawyers Naser Zarafshan and Mohammad Ali Safari, film director, Bahram Beyza'i, artist Aidin Aqdashloo, philosopher Dariush Shayegan, journalists. Nooshabeh Amiri, Ali Dehbashi, Mohammad Bloori, Firooz Gooran, Mohammad Heydari, Sekineh Heydari and Hooshang Asadi and photojournalist Kaveh Golestan.

Safari, a well-known former parliamentary journalist turned lawyer defending dissidents, including Abbas Amir-Entezam, Iran and probably world's oldest political prisoner after the Islamic revolution, reportedly died [in the morning of February 18] of heart attack he suffered on his return from an interrogation at the *Amaken*. A source at the LEF confirmed that all summons had been carried on orders from the Judiciary, a power that, like the LEF and others, is directly controlled by Ayatollah Ali Khameneh'i.

In a letter to Intelligence and Interior ministries, Deputy Islamic Guidance Minister protested the arrests and called on his colleagues to put an end to the "most illegal action" [of the *Amaken*], observing that the continuation of the summoning would "dangerously harm" relations between the intellectuals with both the LEF and the Judiciary. However, informed sources said the summons and arrests of dissidents go on, regardless of protests. Official sources told Tehran newspapers that the Interior Ministry had protested to the LEF about the arrests and had asked for explanations, but so far there has been no convincing answer.

It was reported that Za'idzadeh was arrested on [February 16] by the plainclothes men and beaten badly and threatened to be killed "before being dumped in the street" while Hamidi had been detained just before the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on 11 February, despite his poor health conditions following other forced interrogations.

AFP's comment on the same news (February 17): Iran's conservative authorities have probably arrested a dozen students, including some in charge of student publications, said a senior government official, who criticized the crackdown as "illogical." "Twelve students, some of them in charge of student publications, have been summoned and probably arrested during the past 15 days," Deputy Minister of Research and Technology Gholam-Reza Zarifian said. "Unfortunately nowadays more students are being summoned, and we have been witnessing illogical acts by some extremist groups and some judicial institutions toward students," said Zarifian.

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

"According to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, there are committees in the universities that are responsible for dealing with violations of laws by students," he said.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty *Iran Report's* comment on the same news: The summonses come in the form of phone calls from Iran's morality police, who are usually responsible for enforcing official bans against unrelated men and women walking together in public. The phone calls are an order to appear in person for a meeting at a most unexpected location -- the downtown office of the branch of the morality police that specifically monitors restaurants and other public places to ensure no wild parties take place. All of the some 20 private individuals who have received such calls have no apparent reason to be investigated by this particular police department, which is called the Public Places Supervision Office. But when they go, they find that there is, indeed, someone who wants to meet with them -- in the basement of the building. Ahmad Bashiri is a reformist lawyer who recently received one of the summonses... "I was summoned by a phone call from the Public Places Supervision Office. When I got there, they showed me the way to the basement. They had some of my interviews and articles on their desks, and they kept repeating that my merest criticism of the Judiciary undermined the Judiciary's position. They wanted me to confess that I was a collaborator with SAVAK, the former regime's intelligence service." Bashiri continues, "Then they verbally insulted me. I could not answer back because it was too degrading to both my personal and social ethics. And I was shocked [because] I didn't know why they would bring me to the Public Places Supervision Office for these matters."

Others summoned to meetings in the same basement say they also were subjected to intense verbal abuse, including threats of physical violence. Firouz Gouran, a reform journalist, says he was asked why he gave interviews to foreign media and was accused of being on their payroll. The journalist says he questioned the authority of his interrogators to level such accusations and told them that, next time, he would not answer their summons. In that case, one interrogator said, he would personally break both of Gouran's legs. Those who have suffered the basement interrogations say that the setting appears intended to create a far more threatening and intimidating atmosphere than the usual official practice of summoning reformists to answer various charges in the courts. In the courts, the questioning also focuses on allegations that reformist editors or lawyers are threatening state institutions by printing articles critical of conservative officials or by defending detained liberals. But the court sessions are conducted by known judges, not anonymous individuals.

February 20

Ali Afshari reported he was tortured. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

[Office for Fostering Unity, Daftar-i Tahkim-i Vahdat] leader Ali Afshari described the "intolerable psychological and physical torture" he had undergone in prison. Afshari added that his captors had forced him to read a prepared statement that appeared as a televised confession.

Amnesty for university students. (Iranian newspaper *Norooz*)

University students who had been charged for their participation in Tehran Student Demonstration (including 2 students who had been previously sentenced to capital punishment) and in Khorramabad City unrest were pardoned as of the 20th of February on the amnesty issued by the Iranian Supreme Leader, based on the request of Shahroudi, head of Judiciary Power.

Iranian newspaper *Iran*'s report on the same news on February 27: Mehran Mir-Abdolbaqi, one of the students who was sentenced to jail following the [Tehran] University campus events [of June 1998] has been released. The family of Mohammad Reza Kasrani, another jailed student, told that he will be released soon. One of the friends of Hoseyn Yekta has said that he will be released probably within the next few days.

February 21

Majlis member mentions increasing confrontation between students and the police. (Iranian daily *Iran*)

A member of the parliament, Ali Akbar Musavi-Kho'ini, a former member of the students movement, reported on the increasing instances of confrontation between the police and the students and added: "The warnings of the students demonstrate their dedication and sympathy, nevertheless some [conservative] groups respond to these warnings by resorting to police tactics".

February 24

Newspaper banned by the court. (AFP)

The conservative daily *Siyassat-e-Rouz* was banned by the court. "This suspension was ordered by judge Said Mortazavi," head of the judicial section of the Tehran law courts, the paper's director Ali Youssefpour told. The paper is faced with "33 complaints," Youssefpour added, saying that a complaint by the Labour Ministry lay behind the decision of the court to suspend the daily.

February 25

A student activist allegedly killed. (Students Movement Co-ordinating Committee for Democracy in Iran/ SMCCDI)*

The Medical Legist has declared that Akram Hassan-Zadeh, a SMCCDI member and student activist, has died due to an unknown poison. The statement given to the victim's family declared the will of the authorities to keep the body of Akram for more analysis. According to SMCCDI, Akram Hassan-Zadeh was in reality assassinated the previous week by members of the Islamic Republic Ministry of Intelligence in the Tehran University Dorms. Hassan-Zadeh's death occurred following a short e-mail, sent by herself, stating about investigations made on her

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

activities and possibilities of an immediate arrest. The victim was adding that she had to leave Tehran and reach Turkish border in an attempt to leave Iran, as she was fearing for her life.

Split in the student movement. (IRNA)

It was reported that the Office to Foster Unity was splitted. The internal disputes in the OFU reportedly began about two years ago over the election of the nine new members of the student association's central council. These disputes led to a split between seven of the central council's members on one side and two of the central council members on the other side. Mehdi Tabataba-i and Mehdi Manuchehri, two like-minded members in the OFU's central council, held an election meeting on [February 21-22, in Shiraz] to designate seven alternative members. The [other] seven members of the OFU's central council boycotted the Shiraz election and described it as "a charade" and "contrary to the association's regulations". Ali Afshari, Reza Hojjati, Akbar Atri, Ebrahim Sheykh, Nima Fateh, Javad Salehi and Siavash Afzali are the seven members who boycotted the Shiraz meeting. By resigning from the OFU's central council, these seven members are calling for a nationwide election to designate the new members of the council.

Norooz report of the same news: At a meeting held in the name of [the OFU] at the University of Shiraz for the several days and with the participation of the members of the Central Council the following persons Seyyed Mehdi Ahmadi, Qasem Khajeh Ahmad, Alam-Shahi, Hadi Panahi were elected as permanent members of the Council while Mehdi Nasiri, Arash Pournemat and Reza Amini were elected as reserved members. However while this meeting, attended by several members of the Office for Fostering Unity, was being held, the Islamic associations of 50 universities declared that the meeting was illegal.

February 26

Bassij militia arrested youth for holding a dance party. (AFP)

Iran's Islamic Bassij militiamen have arrested at least three dozen youths for holding a dance party in Tabriz, Mohammad-Esmail Saidi, the Basiji commander for the city, stated that 36 youths were jailed on pending trial and others released on bail. He did not specify if they were being held in police cells or at a Bassiji base in Tabriz.

Office to Foster Unity was ordered to close. (AFP)

Police have ordered the closure of the offices of main pro-reform students organisation. The source told the Office to Foster Unity (OFU) was ordered to close until further notice after a "forceful intervention" by police against its Tehran central offices. The action was taken after a clash broke out as 50 students protested against the election of two new members to the OFU leadership whom they accused of being close to Iran's conservatives, the source said. Police detained around 40 students for several hours.

Financial Times report of the same news: Leaders of Iran's main pro-reform student organisation stated that police had closed their Tehran headquarters, detained more than 40 students overnight and severely beaten several activists. The police raid

appeared aimed at halting the political activities of reformist students belonging to the nationwide Office to Foster Unity and follows the recent interrogations of dozens of intellectuals by a shadowy group acting on the orders of the conservative-controlled judiciary. The detained students had been released but no reason was given for their detention. Police said they had acted in response to a street fight between students in Tehran that erupted after a dispute over elections to positions within the student body. The Office to Foster Unity has been split for more than a year, with reformists alleging that conservatives have infiltrated the organisation with the support of official representatives of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

February 27

Khamenei amnestied some prisoners. (AFP)

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei amnestied or commuted jail terms for an unspecified number of prisoners convicted by the nation's civil, military and revolutionary tribunals. Iran's judiciary chief, Ayatollah Mahmud Hashemi Shahrudi, requested the amnesties on February 11 for the 23rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. All the amnestied prisoners, including some women, had been jailed for minor offences. Prisoners convicted of political, moral offences, acts against state security, espionage, rape, armed robbery are excluded.

February 28

Final verdicts in the case of Kar and Lahiji. (Writers in Prison Committee)

Final verdicts have been reached in the trials of writer, editor, and lawyer Mehrangiz Kar and publisher Shahla Lahiji. Both their sentences have been reduced to six months in prison, minus the two months of imprisonment already served plus a fine of about \$285. A human rights lawyer, writer, and editor of the now-banned *Zan* literary review, Kar was arrested on 29 April 2000 with Lahiji, writer-publisher, translator, and director of Roshangaran, a prominent publishing house of women's books. They were charged with "acting against national security" for taking part in the Berlin conference on Iran at the Heinrich Boell Institute. Until their release on bail on 21 June 2000, they were detained in the Evin Prison. On 13 January 2001, they were each sentenced to four years in prison, but remained free pending appeal. Kar is currently in the U.S. receiving medical treatment for breast cancer.

The Society of the Self-Sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution held its first congress. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

The Society of the Self-Sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution held its first congress on 28 February, and elected the members of its central council. This extreme-right-wing party consists mainly of war veterans. Society official Ali Darabi complained in December 2000 that "counter-revolutionaries and foreign media" bore a great deal of responsibility for trying to create a political stalemate in Iran.

Two teachers allegedly died during teachers' protests. (SMCCDI)*

Two teachers have been reported dead following the crackdown during the teachers' demonstration in Tehran in January 2002. These two teachers, Akhtar Ghassem-Zadeh-Moin, 37 years old, and Mohammad-Ebrahim Ahmad-Nia, 46 years old, were reportedly hospitalized due to their injuries, without any right of family visit, at the Khatam-ol-Anbia Hospital which is under the management of the Pasdaran Corp. Their families were asked to keep silent if they wished to see them alive. But now and after practically the lapse of a month, their families believed that there was no more hope for seeing their beloved alive and that the government is intending to hide their deaths.

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