

Chronology of Events in Iran, July 2003*

July 1

Two hanged publicly in Khuzestan province. (Agence France Presse / AFP).

Two men, found guilty of armed robbery and rape, were hanged publicly in the province of Khuzestan. Hushang A. and Siavosh H., were convicted by a court in Behbahan and executed after the Islamic Republic's Supreme Court affirmed the verdict. They were hanged in the town's Martyrs' Square before a large crowd, including local officials.

July 2

Aghajari's prison sentence reduced. (Iranian newspaper *Iran*).

The appeals court has reduced the eight-year jail term of Hashem Aghajari to three years and 11 months. Saleh Nikbakht, Aghajari's defence lawyer, said that the death sentence passed on Aghajari has not yet been sent from the preliminary court to the Supreme National Court. He said: "The sentence of the appeal court in Hamadan province refers to other charges brought against Aghajari, which are separate from his death sentence." He went on to say: "One of the charges brought against Aghajari was disrupting public order. In that case, he should have been tried on the basis of article 618 of Islamic penal code. However, instead of passing sentence for the charge of disrupting public order, which is punishable by one year's imprisonment, the preliminary and appeal courts have changed the charge to the spreading of lies, and consequently they have sentenced him to two years of imprisonment, in addition to 74 lashes."

July 3

Ayatollah Taheri denies calling on students to revolt on 9 July. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*).

Ayatollah Seyyed Jaleleddin Taheri, the former Friday prayer leader of Esfahan and a member of the Assembly of Experts, denied reports that he issued a statement in respect of 18 Tir [anniversary of the unrest at Tehran University on 9 July 1999]. His denial follows a report on *Radio Farda* which broadcast a statement ascribed to the former Esfahan Friday prayers leader, Ayatollah Taheri. The said statement had called on the people to take to the streets on 18 Tir in the pursuit of counter-revolutionary

* *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*

aims. In a message broadcast live on Esfahan television, Ayatollah Taheri having denied such a statement, announced officially that he would accept any kind of punishment if the individual or individuals behind the statement submitted any proof of its veracity.

Students stage hunger strike over arrests of protesters in Iran. (AFP).

Several students from Tehran and provincial universities have gone on hunger strike to demand the release of classmates arrested during last month's anti-regime protests. Several students from Tehran's Allameh Tabatabaie University had stopped eating since June 30. They were demanding that detained demonstrators be freed and "rogue elements" of the regime, namely hardline vigilante groups that helped violently quell the June 10-20 protests, be put on trial. Eight students from Mashhad's Ferdowsi University were also making a similar protest to demand the release of detained students. A third hunger strike has reportedly begun in the central city of Isfahan. A delegation of MPs from Iran's reformist-held parliament, or Majlis, had met the hunger strikers in Tehran. According to Iran's judiciary, about 4,000 people were detained during the demonstrations marked by unprecedented slogans targeting supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and fierce clashes between hardline Islamist groups and demonstrators. Around 2,000 people are still in detention, a top justice official said, but the judiciary has said only 100 of those being held are actually students. The rest have been described as "hooligans". Higher Education Minister Gholamreza Zarifian reported that all detained students had been handed over to the Intelligence Ministry, amid concerns that some were languishing in the custody of parallel security institutions.

Tehran's main university campus is to be closed from July 7-14, with all gatherings marking the occasion banned.

Official says all students arrested in Kermanshah Province released. (Iranian Students News Agency / ISNA).

All the university students who were arrested during the recent events in Kermanshah have reportedly been released. The director of the office of political and security affairs at the office of the governor-general of Kermanshah Province said that unrest broke out at Razi and Medical Sciences universities in Kermanshah after 26 Khordad [16 June] but no students were arrested in the university. He claimed that a number of other people were arrested outside the university. Six students among them were released later. Rahimi said that there were no restrictions on student activities within the university.

July 4

Iranian Azeri journalist said to be abducted in Kaleybar. (Azerbaijani newspaper *Yeni Musavat*).*

Peyman Pakmehr, member of the Reporters without Borders (RSF), was allegedly kidnapped in the first week of July during a march to Fort Bazz [Babak Fortress] in the city of Kaleybar. The journalist was reportedly abducted outside the Kaleybar

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

Hotel (also known as Babak Hotel) when he was giving an interview to the *Farda Radio* broadcasting from the USA. The World Congress of Azerbaijanis reported that four armed men in plain clothes approached Peyman Pakmehr. Eyewitnesses said that the armed men called for an ambulance car and took him away under the pretext of delivering him to hospital. It was impossible to find Pakmehr in hospitals of Kaleybar or neighbouring towns. Peyman Pakmehr, 30, married previously worked as a correspondent for *Nasime-Saba* and Tabriz-based *Ahrar* newspapers.

Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty Newslines report on the same news: Payman Pakmehr returned to his home on 4 July, 48 hours after being attacked and kidnapped by unidentified individuals. His disappearance occurred shortly after he reported on a gathering at the Babak Castle near the East Azerbaijan Province town of Kelidar for the annual commemoration of Babak Khorramdin.

July 6

Iranian editors jailed for photo of exiled leader. (Reuters).

An Iranian press court jailed two editors after their newspaper published a photograph of an exiled Iranian opposition leader. Iraj Jamshidi, editor-in-chief of the *Asia* daily newspaper, and his wife, managing editor Saghi Bagherinia, were imprisoned after failing to post a combined bail of 2.5 billion rials (\$312,500). The *Asia* newspaper, which carries mostly financial news, published an article and photograph on its front page on July 5 about the release from jail in France of Maryam Rajavi, head of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). "We were charged with propaganda against the system for publishing a picture and an article," Jamshidi said before he and his wife were taken to Tehran's Evin prison.

University officials summoned, arrested. (ISNA).

The deputy for student affairs at the Tehran University campus was summoned by the office of the prosecutor-general and he was reportedly arrested by the Information Ministry. Another official who was responsible for disciplinary affairs at the university campus had also been in detention since July 3. University officials did not know why the two were summoned and arrested and they did not get any response to their inquiries.

July 7

Iranian Azeris celebrated the anti-Islamic hero. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL Iran Report).

Thousands of people gathered at the Babak Castle near the East Azerbaijan Province town of Kelidar in early July for the annual commemoration of Babak Khorramdin, one of the first popular Persian leaders to oppose the imposition of Islam and Arab rule. The Babak Khorramdin celebration has no official program and consists of people staying overnight around the Babak Castle, gathering in small groups for informal conversations or musical performances.

Public prosecutor says 65 of arrested students to go to court. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*).

Tehran's public prosecutor has said that a bill of indictment has been prepared against 65 of those involved in the recent unrest, and that it was submitted to the Tehran Revolutionary Court.

Situation at Tehran's Bazaar normal despite calls for strike. (*Iranian Baztab web site*).*

In spite of the extensive propaganda and calls for strike at the Bazaar in Tehran on July 7, the situation in the Bazaar was completely normal. For 10 days, various leaflets were circulating around the Tehran Bazaar announcing that a strike would be staged in the Bazaar on July 7. A number of opposition satellite networks, radios and internet sites, too, had been calling on the bazaaris to stage a strike and demonstrate. Some of the leaflets had noted that fire would be set to any shop in the bazaar that stayed open.

Iranian *Baztab* web site report on the same news on July 9: The jewellers and grocers markets as well as Bazaar Hajeboddoleh at the central Bazaar of Tehran were closed in the morning as shopkeepers feared there would be a demonstration on the occasion of July 9, the anniversary of the 1999 student unrest. However, about 11 o'clock they opened their shops after consultation with the Bazaar Trade Union. A number of the shopkeepers at the Bazaar were reportedly prepared to hold a demonstration. But the episode ended after Law Enforcement Force, a number of renowned businessmen and the secretary of the trade union arrived in the Bazaar. A number of shopkeepers and businessmen had announced earlier that they have no plan for demonstration on July 9 and that they had postponed the demonstration to July 16.

July 9

Free T-shirts bearing US flag distributed among public to protest. (*Iranian Baztab web site*).*

It was reported that over the past two days free T-shirts were distributed among members of the public in city streets in Mashhad. The American flag is printed on these T-shirts. Young people in Mashhad have seen that passengers in Peugeot Models 206 and 405 as Rover and Pride cars stop suddenly to offer the free T-shirts and invite them to attend the July 9 demonstrations.

Islamic vigilantes, police, youths fight in Tehran. (Reuters).

Hundreds of Iranian Islamic vigilantes, police and pro-democracy youths fought three-sided running street battles near Tehran University on the anniversary of 1999 student unrest. A witness said police had fired tear gas at groups of youths near the campus and also fought fist fights with plainclothes Islamic militiamen to prevent them from engaging in further running battles with youths. Armed Iranian Islamic vigilantes had seized three student leaders as they left a news conference where they announced they had cancelled protests to mark the anniversary of 1999 university

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unrest. Authorities have banned off-campus rallies, closed campus dormitories, postponed summer exams and vowed to deal strictly with any unrest.

Agence France Presse report on the same news: Tens of thousands of Iranians converged on an area around Tehran University in their cars to mark the fourth anniversary of bloody pro-democracy student riots, defying a huge deployment of riot police and vigilantes. Despite a blanket ban on any gatherings, masses of vehicles were seen jammed around *Enghelab* (Revolution) square and the tense city-centre campus. The facility itself was closed by authorities in what had been part of a determined bid to prevent any display of public anger against the regime. Hundreds of anti-riot police, decked out in combat fatigues and protective gear, lined the streets, while members of the Basij and Ansar Hezbollah militias - the fiercest defenders of the nearly 25-year-old Islamic regime - whizzed around on motorcycles.

The bumper-to-bumper jam in the normally quiet nocturnal streets was accompanied by a deafening cacophony of car horns as, in a repeat of anti-regime protests in June, residents displayed their frustration. Those who dared to sound their horns while passing near the Bassijis were quickly surrounded and harassed. In what appeared to be a police bid to prevent serious clashes, some scuffles broke out between uniformed officers and plainclothes but armed Islamist vigilantes trying to approach an area where a traffic jam of protesters' cars was backed up. No other clashes were spotted during an extensive tour of the area between 10 pm (1730 GMT) and midnight (19:30 GMT), although several young people were seen being detained by police. Armoured trucks featuring metal plows and water cannons were also on hand around Enghelab square.

Iranian *Baztab* web site report on the same news: There were sporadic demonstrations in six parts of Tehran, including Enqelab Square, Keshavarz Boulevard, Kargar Avenue, Square One in Tehran Pars, Daneshju Park and Laleh Park, until midnight.

Iranian student leaders arrested after blasting regime. (AFP).

Three leading Iranian student activists were arrested just minutes after holding a press conference to blast the regime for banning events to mark the fourth anniversary of bloody student clashes with security forces. The arrests were made after activists from the Office to Foster Unity (OFU) - a pro-reform student umbrella group - said President Mohammad Khatami had failed in his drive for reforms and alleged the judiciary was trying to prevent freedom of thought. Minutes after the press conference ended, three activists were pushed to the ground and then taken away in a car by plain-clothes men, witnesses said. The detained were named by the OFU as Ameri-Nassab, Ali Moghtaderi and Arash Hashemi. The remaining students then locked themselves back in the central Tehran building, and called for the help of reformist MPs.

Group of students end three-day hunger strike. (ISNA).

Several students at the Industrial University of Khajeh Nasiroddin Tusi ended their hunger strike which they had started on July 6. Islamic Association of Students of the university stated that said the continuation of the protest was not expedient.

Sporadic riots reported in many cities, banks damaged, dozens arrested. (Iranian *Baztab* web site).

It was reported that there were sporadic demonstrations in a number of provincial cities last night. In Zarqan, in Fars Province, demonstrators, who numbered more than 150, broke the windows of Melli and Saderat banks and wrecked the Zand branch of Eqtesad-e Novin Bank. A minibus was also set alight by the demonstrators in the town last night. The unrest lasted until around midnight. Several demonstrators were arrested.

There were demonstrations by 20 to 100 people in Shiraz, Karaj, Bojnurd, Mahabad and Masjed Soleyman continuing into the early hours. The demonstrators were scattered after about an hour.

There were also demonstrations in Falavarjan, near Esfahan, and Bandar Lengeh, near Bandar Abbas. About 20 to 30 motorcyclists rode through city streets and suburbs shouting slogans.

Jailed Iranian editor's brother arrested. (AFP)

Iraj Jamshidi, the chief editor of *Asia*, an Iranian financial daily which was suspended for publishing a front page picture of banned opposition leader Maryam Rajavi, remains in jail despite posting the required judicial bail, and his brother has also been arrested. His brother Esmail Jahmshidi, a member of Iran's Writers Association, was also arrested.

July 10

Kidnapped Iranian opposition figure released. (Iranian *Baztab* web site)*

An opponent of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nader Mohsen Mobaraki, has been released after having been kidnapped by unknown people from his house in Baghdad on 16 June. Mobaraki is responsible for Radio Baluchestan which broadcast programme against Iran from Baghdad. He said he was blindfolded and transferred to the Salman-Pak region, in south of Baghdad, and detained there for 15 days. During this period, the kidnappers tried to obtain information about Iraq's intelligence and security elements from him.

July 11

Journalist died under custody. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

Zahra Kazemi, a Canadian journalist of Iranian origin, died under police custody. A naturalized Canadian who was born in Iran, Zahra Kazemi was photographing the families of political prisoners in front of Evin Prison on 23 June when she was detained by the authorities. On 10 July it was reported that she was comatose in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Baghiatollah Hospital and she died the next day of what officials termed a cerebral hemorrhage.

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ISNA report of the same event on July 16: Vice President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Ali Abtahi said that Kazemi "died from a brain hemorrhage resulting from a blow".

Some arrested students released. (ISNA)

The director-general of the Ministry of Sciences in charge of security has reported the release of nine of the arrested Tehran University students on July 10-11. Saying that there were only an insignificant number of students from student associations among those arrested, he said since the student association members had not played a part in the recent unrest, it would not be expedient to keep them in detention.

ISNA report on the same news on July 12: Director-General of Political-Disciplinary Department of Tehran Governor-General's Office has said that more than 80 of those who were arrested on July 9 were released. It was reported that more than 80 of the 250 people who were arrested were released within the past two days.

July 11

Son of senior dissident released from Tehran's Evin Prison. (ISNA)

Vahid Sazgara, the son of the political dissident Mohammad Mohsen Sazgara, was released after having been detained earlier in mid June. Vahid Sazgara was in detention at the Evin Prison in Tehran.

Two leading student leaders detained by officers of the Judiciary. (ISNA)

The general manager of the Security Bureau at the Ministry of Sciences has confirmed that Sa'id Razavi Faqih, a member of Office for Fostering Unity, was arrested last night. The arrest was made by the officers who work with the Judiciary and on the basis of a warrant issued by the prosecutor. He also confirmed that Mehdi Habibi, the secretary of the Islamic Association of Students at Amir Kabir University, has also been detained.

Two reformist journalists arrested. (ISNA)

Hoseyn Bastani and Vahid Purostad, two members of the reformist *Yas-e Now* daily's editorial board were arrested. The columnists were summoned to Tehran Prosecutor's Office and were arrested.

July 12

Azeri journalists released. (RFE/RL *Newsline*)

Tabriz journalist Ensafali Hedayat returned home. He was detained by Iranian militia while reporting on disturbances at the campus of Tabriz University in mid-June and had not been heard from since that time.

Student leader arrested. (Iranian Labour News Agency / ILNA)

Hojjat Sharifi, a former member of the Office for Fostering Unity and a member of the Islamic Association of Students at the Sharif Industrial University, was arrested.

July 14

Director of banned weekly detained. (ISNA)

Iraj Rastegar, the managing director of the banned weekly *Tavana*, was arrested by Tehran's General and Revolution Courts' prosecutor's office and transferred to Evin Prison. A temporary ban was imposed on *Tavana* weekly on the orders of Bench 1410 of the Judicial Complex for Government Employees two years ago.

Iran introduces new measures to speed up repatriation of Afghan refugees. (AFP)

Iran has introduced new measures to speed up the return of Afghan refugees to their own country, the director of refugee affairs at the Iranian Interior Ministry said. "The Afghan refugees should change their identification documents for new papers, based on a new three-month plan which started on June 22 and will last until September 22," said Ahmad Hosseini. "Around 1.8 million Afghan refugees presently in Iran can work, study or get married only with the new documents which are valid until the beginning of the year 2005, when the tripartite agreement signed by Afghanistan, Iran and the United Nations on the return of Afghans ends," he said. Iran anticipates repatriating a million Afghan refugees by the beginning of 2005, Hosseini said. From March 2005, the remaining 800,000 refugees will no longer be classed as refugees but will be considered as immigrants, and it will be up to Iran's discretion whether to expel them or to house them in camps.

July 15

Director of reformist journal detained. (ISNA)

Isa Saharkhiz, the managing director of the monthly publication *Aftab*, was taken to a detention centre at noon after a 15m-toman [19,000-dollar] bail order was issued. Saharkhiz appeared before Penal Court Bench 1083 and after the judge's questions regarding the plaint lodged by the representative of the public prosecutor about something published in issue No 18 in August-September 2002, a 15m-toman bail order was issued. Saharkhiz, charged with propaganda against the ruling system, intended to post bail but was unable to do so because of the administrative problems regarding the registration of the payment.

Director of film journal detained. (ISNA)

Hoseyn Farrokhi, managing director of the publication *Cinema-Theatre*, has been detained on a bail order after being questioned in court. The managing director of Cinema-Theatre appeared before Penal Court Bench 1083 and was asked questions about the publication of some pictures in the journal in recent months. After being informed of the charge, Farrokhi was unable to provide the 25m-toman [31,000-dollar] bail and was taken to prison on a judicial order.

Arrest warrant issued for editor of conservative daily. (ISNA)

The interrogator at Bench 6 of the prosecutor's office for government and media offences has issued an arrest warrant for the editor in chief of *Javan* newspaper. The interrogator ordered that Parviz Karami should be arrested because of his failure to

present himself after being sent various summonses. Karami denied receiving summons.

July 16

Iraqi Shi'ite body orders personnel to cease activities in Iran, return to Iraq. (Iranian newspaper *Etemaad*)

The Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq decided to put an end to all of its activities in Iran. The Supreme Assembly has warned all its personnel that they will be dismissed if they do not return to Iraq by 23 July at the latest.

Student leaders arrested. (ILNA and RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

The authorities detained two student leaders on July 16. Said Babai and Amir Motamedi, the head and secretary of the Islamic Association of Students at Tehran University, respectively, failed to return after responding to a summons from the Tehran Prosecutor's Office, a member of the student association's central council said. Hojat Sharifi, a former member of the Office for Strengthening Unity (OSU) student organization, was detained on 12 July. The parents of Tehran University student Payman Aref, who was arrested recently, met with the boy at Evin Prison on 16 July. Aref's parents expressed concern about his asthma and asked for prompt resolution of his case so he could get medical treatment.

Ban on publication of two dailies lifted. (*Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network I*)

The Public Relations department of Tehran's Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor announced that, "with the elimination of legal obstacles", the ban on the publication of *Javan* [conservative] and *Hambastegi* [reformist] newspapers have been lifted. The two dailies were banned recently because *Javan* did not have its proprietor's name on its masthead and *Hambastegi* had no managing-editor for sometime.

July 18

Fourteen detained students released on bail. (*Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network I*)

Tehran's Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor Sa'id Mortazavi announced that fourteen students, who participated in July demonstrations, have been released on condition of bail and in some cases, written pledges, after investigation of the charges against them.

ISNA report of the same news on July 19: A member of the Islamic Society of the Students of Science and Industry University [Persian: *Daneshgah-e Elm va San'at*] who was arrested during the recent events has been released. Mehdi Purrahim, a member of the Islamic Society of the Students of the Science and Industry University who was arrested during the recent events, was released after 21 days of detention.

ISNA report of the same news on July 22: Mojtaba Najafi, secretary of the Islamic Association of Students of Allameh Tabataba'i University, has been released on payment of 10m tomans [12,000 dollars] in bail.

July 19

Ayatollah Taheri's assistant arrested on the order of Special Cleric Court. (ISNA)

Madah, the head of Ayatollah Taheri's office was arrested near his house on the basis of a warrant issued by the Special Clerical Court. Madah's son said that his father was arrested by several individuals in plainclothes who had a warrant from the Special Clerical Court. Then they searched the house.

July 22

Azeri group claims repression in Iran. (RFE/RL *Iran Report*) *

The irredentist National Liberation Movement of Southern Azerbaijan claims that its activists are the subject of "massive arrests and repression," Baku's *Bizim Asr* reported. Hundreds of the Azeri activists reportedly have been arrested in Ardabil, Hamedan, Khoi, Tabriz, Tehran, Urumiyeh, and Zanjan.

Trial of three students of Khajeh Nasir University postponed. (ILNA)

The court session at Bench 26 of the Islamic Revolution Court dealing with the charges against Ruzbeh Shafi'i, Morteza Taqipur and Morteza Shirband, three members of Khajeh Nasireddin Tusi University, was not convened because of the presiding judge's illness.

Licence issued for Kordestan Province's first daily since 1979. (IRNA)

The Press Supervisory Board has approved the publication of the first daily in Kordestan Province, *Ashti* (Reconciliation). Borhan Zarretan-Lahuni is the licence holder and managing director of the newspaper. Zarretan-Lahuni said: "Clearing misconceptions about Kordestan, laying the groundwork for identifying and developing the region's cultural talents, strengthening the ties between the local culture in Kurdish regions and the national culture, and the delivery of precise information about the situation of the region would be among the daily's policies."

Ethnic Azeri student leader allegedly killed in Iran. (Azerbaijani newspaper *Xalq Gazeti*) *

Tabriz Revolutionary Court ruled that a leader of the student movement, Faramaz Mohammadi, be executed, Teymur Eminbayli, head of the Baku office of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World, said. He said that Mohammadi was a student of the Literature Department at Tabriz University: "She was one of the leading figures in the student movement. After the execution, her corpse was taken to Ardabil accompanied by Ettela'at (intelligence) officers." Eminbayli said that she had been one of the organizers of the student movement at Tabriz University a month ago: "She delivered radical speeches against Iran's regime. She was arrested by the Ettela'at (Iranian Intelligence) immediately after the establishment of the student movement. She was ethnic Azeri and 19 years old."

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July 23

Majlis ratifies the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. (RFE/RL Iran Report)

The Iranian legislature ratified a bill on Iranian accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The bill states that Iranian membership is conditional on the convention not contradicting Islam, and Iran does not have to abide by the convention's article on the settlement of disputes through international jurisdiction.

Journalists detained. (RFE/RL Iran Report)

Guzarish monthly Managing Director Abolqasem Golbaz was arrested on July 21 on charges of propagandizing against the system, spreading lies, presenting a black picture (*siah nemai*) of the internal situation, and justifying toppling of the system. Golbaz has been sent to Evin Prison, and *Guzarish* journalists Nadir Karimi and Ismail Amini, as well as photographer Hojatollah Sepahvand, have been summoned for questioning. Two other *Guzarish* editorial board members were arrested on the evening of 23 July. They are caricaturist Arash Nurchian and front-cover designer Mohammad Amin Golbaz.

July 26

Reformist cleric says he was threatened. (ILNA)

Mohsen Kadivar, a Tarbiat Modarres University lecturer, referred to a report in conservative newspapers and web sites suggesting that he was threatened with being defrocked, and said: "On May 12, when one of the gentlemen did not win enough votes at a session of the Press Supervisory Board, he threatened me via some friends, saying that I would be sent to prison for a long time and defrocked. He said that if I did not lay down my pen, this is what the Special Clerical Court would do and he asked that I stop writing for *Aftab* monthly." He also said that he had not given any interviews to either the *Voice of America* or *Radio Farda* [US Persian-language radio].

Iranian President lodges complaint against parallel intelligence services. (AFP)

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has expressed alarm over the treatment of political activists by unofficial intelligence agencies, the country's main reformist party stated. Khatami issued a formal complaint to the office he set up after his election in 1997 to record violations of constitutional rights, said the reformist party Iran Participation Front (IIPF), lead by the president's brother Mohammad Reza Khatami. The president's written complaint claims that around 60 political radicals have been arrested by unofficial intelligence agencies, kept in isolation and subjected to psychological abuse to extract forced confessions. The office called on the IIPF secretary general to submit evidence so that the allegations could be investigated.

July 27

Three law enforcement personnel killed by armed men in northwest Iran. (ISNA)

The head of the information centre of the law enforcement command of Western Azarbayjan, while confirming the killing of three members of the province's law enforcement force, has rejected the suggestion that they were killed by the forces of Turkey's Kurdistan Workers' Party [formerly known as PKK]. Captain Shahnam Reza'i said: "Last week, three personnel from the *Salmas* [law enforcement] station who had been sent to the region with the purpose of blocking the border strip to combat smuggling were martyred in a clash with some armed men."

July 30

Students jailed for insulting the Iranian "Supreme Leader". (ILNA)

A group of Ilam University students have been sentenced to three-years imprisonment for insulting the "Supreme Leader". It was said at the Majlis that the following were sentenced to three-years imprisonment on charges of writing to the "Leader" and insulting him: Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni, Reza Vafa'i Yeganeh, Qodrat Shekari-Tabar, Ehsan Jamshidi, Kamran Mowla'i, and Mohammad Seyahpush. The trial of these individuals was conducted by the Ilam Judiciary behind closed doors. Furthermore, Sa'id Avani and Hamid Baigpour were also sentenced to one-year imprisonment each. Reza Behnampour was sentenced to a year and a half imprisonment for acting against national security. From among students of the Razi University of Kermanshah, Alireza Moradi and Omran Purandukht are still in detention. It has been reported from Orumiye University that all the students of this university have been freed, but investigations are being conducted in other forms.

Protest in Kahriz over water supply subsided. (Iranian newspaper *Mardom Salari*).

About 1,000 inhabitants of Kahriz gathered at Kilometre 10 on the Najafabad-Esfahan road, blocking the road and burning tyres, in protest at the water problem not being solved. The governor went to the scene but was injured in the face when some demonstrators threw stones at him. The number of protesters gradually increased, reaching 2,000. As a result of constant stone throwing more than 10 Law Enforcement officers received minor injuries and about 40 protesters were arrested.

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