



COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM IN IRAN

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036

Ph: (202) 772-4154 Fax: (202) 772-3101
info@referendum-iran.org website: www.referendum-iran.org

Human Rights in Iran – March 2005

Government crackdown after Soccer match, six killed, 40 injured

Iran-Japan soccer match scene of antigovernment demonstrations

INTV (Iran's National television - opposition), Mar. 25 - The qualifying round game for the World Cup 2006 in Germany between Iran and Japan, held this afternoon in Tehran's Azadi Stadium, became the scene of an antigovernment demonstration.

The clerical regime had stationed special anti-riot units and hundreds of State Security Forces (SSF) in and around Tehran's Azadi Stadium... Shortly after the start of the game, young people disfigured large portraits of Khomeini and Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. They also challenged the SSF and security forces and began hurling handmade firecrackers, turning the match into an antigovernment demonstration. They chanted slogans against the regime's leaders, demanding the overthrow of the mullahs' regime and the establishment of democracy in Iran.

The smoke from the firecrackers was so extensive that the state television could not show parts of the Stadium. At the end of the rally, the clashes spread to nearby streets, where young people set fire to tires in Nour and Sadeqiyeh squares.

Despite the ban on the presence of women spectators in the Stadium, thousands of women and young girls staged a rally outside Azadi Stadium and chanted slogans against the mullahs' misogynous regime. Large numbers of young people held placards reading antigovernment slogans.

Portraits of clerical leaders disfigured

INTV, Mar. 25 – After spectators disfigured the huge portraits of Khomeini and Khamenei by throwing grenades at them. The state

Copyright 2004 CSRI All Rights Reserved



www.referendum-iran.org

television could not show images of this part of the stadium. But the Japanese state television NHK reporter showed images of the grenade attacks on the portraits of Khomeini and Khamenei.

6,000 troops to preserve calm

IRNA (Iranian state-run news agency), Mar. 25 – Talaii, Commander of the State Security Force in Great Tehran, who was personally in charge of commanding the State Security Forces in Azadi Sports Stadium, said, "More than 6,000 State Security Forces endeavor to keep order and security in the Azadi Stadium.

Youth beaten to death

Iran Focus, Mar. 31 - Father of a victim of Azadi Stadium who was able to find the body of his son after searching for a long while declared in an interview with Radio Farda that the body did not carry any trace of trampling or kick that could be resulted from a hustle, but that it was intact. On the other hand it was obvious that he had received blows on the head, since he had traces of blood in the ears and that part of the face carried large bruises.

Death sentences

Two death sentences

Hamshahri daily (state-run), Mar. 7 - The Judiciary in the city of Karaj issued death sentences for two young men named Davoud K. and Ali H. One of these individuals is 24 years old.

Man hanged

Keyhan daily (state-run), Mar. 10 – According to Keyhan daily a man named only by his first name as Asghar was hanged this morning.

Public hanging

IRNA (official Iranian news agency), Mar. 13 – An armed robber in Ahwaz was hanged in public this afternoon in front of the place where he committed the crime.

Three hanged, two sentenced to death

Kayhan daily (state-run), Mar. 14 – A man was hanged in public in Ahwaz and two death sentences were issued for two youths in Mashad and Gharchak Varamin.

The person hanged in Ahwaz was named Ali Soukhtehzadeh, 31, married with two children.



The two youths sentenced to death in Gharchak Varamin and Mashad were Bahram Oroumand and Saed Hussien.

Public execution

Jomhuri Islami (official Iranian daily), Mar. 15 – Two men participating in an armed robbery gang and causing horror for the people of Bandar-Abbas were hanged in public yesterday morning. The general prosecutor of Bandar-Abbas province announced the names of the two as Said Oj Hormozi and Jalil Moridi.

Another man hanged

News network (Iranian state-run TV-channel), Mar. 16 – Mohmmad Bije, responsible for crimes in cities of Pakdasht and Ghiamdast, was hanged in public. Bije was sentenced to 16 times execution and the sentence was carried out in the main square of Pakdasht.

Young on the death row

Peik-e Iran website, Mar. 18 – A young man named Mohammad who was 16 at time of committing crime is on the death row. Mohammad's family had with the help of their lawyer tried to transfer him to a children's prison but without any results. Mohammad who is now 18 was kept in prison side by side to adult criminals and now awaits execution. His family was told that he will be hanged after the New Year's vacation. (Iranian New Year begins on 21 March).

Arrests, Tortures and inhumane punishments

Pregnant wife of jailed web-logger imprisoned

Reporters Without Borders, Mar. 3 - Reporters Without Borders said it was appalled by the imprisonment of pregnant student, Najmeh Oumidparvar, 26 - wife of web-logger Mohamad Reza Nasab Abdolahi - who has been imprisoned in her turn, one week after her husband... On the eve of her arrest she gave an interview to German radio Deutsche Welle. A few days earlier she posted on her own web-log a message her husband had written shortly before his arrest. In it, he claimed the right to express himself freely adding that he was "waiting for the police handcuffs."...

Kazemi was tortured and brutally raped, Iranian doctor says

The Times, Apr. 1, Ottawa -A CANADIAN woman photographer who died in Iranian custody after taking pictures of a protest outside the notorious Evin prison in Tehran, was beaten, tortured and raped, an Iranian doctor who fled to Canada said yesterday.

Copyright 2004 CSRI All Rights Reserved



Zahra Kazemi, 54, a Canadian citizen born in Iran, was arrested by secret police in June 2003. Shahram Azam said that he examined her at a hospital in the capital four days later. She was in a coma and died several days later without regaining consciousness. Ms Kazemi was the victim of "a very brutal rape", her skull was fractured and her nose broken and there were strange markings all over her body, Dr Azam said. "The backs of both legs, where the skin had come off, indicated a flogging."

His account is the first by a medical official from Iran, and contradicts Iranian officials who said that Ms Kazemi fainted while in custody, hit her head on the ground and failed to regain consciousness. "Everything I saw indicated it was organised torture and not an injury that caused her death," Dr Azam said. Deep scratches behind her neck "looked like the result of nails digging into the flesh".

Her right shoulder was bruised, she had two broken fingers, a broken nose, three missing fingernails, a skull fracture, crushed left toe and a burst ear membrane, he said. Male doctors in Iran are not permitted to conduct vaginal examinations, but a nurse found severe abdominal and genital bruising and concluded that it was the result of savage rape. Ms Kazemi had bruises from her abdominal area down to her thighs.

Dr Azam fled from Iran in August after pretending to seek medical treatment in Finland. From there he went to Sweden, where he got in touch with Ms Kazemi's son, Stephan Hachemi, and the doctor was granted political asylum in Canada.

Other News

UN Human Rights Commission urged to sanction Iran

Reporters Without Borders, Mar. 15 - Reporters Without Borders said today it was "essential" that sanctions against Iran are adopted without delay by the UN Commission on Human Rights, which began its annual session yesterday in Geneva...

Relatives of Iranian journalists who have been the victim of repression will demonstrate today into Geneva to demand the justice they have so far failed to obtain, although they complained to international judicial bodies three years ago.

