

Appendix VI

Violations of Recommendations Protecting Human Rights Defenders

VI.1 The human rights lawyer and defender, Abdolfattah Soltani, who was arrested on September 10, 2011, remains in prison as of March 2014, serving a 13-year sentence. On January 8, 2012, Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court under Judge Pirabbasi sentenced him to 18 years in prison, exile to Borazjan, and a 20-year ban on his legal practice on charges of “being awarded the [2009] Nuremberg International Human Rights Award,” “interviewing with media about his clients’ cases,” and “co-founding the Defenders of Human Rights Center.” An appeals court reduced Abdolfattah Soltani’s sentence to 13 years in prison. He is currently inside Evin Prison’s General Ward 350. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/soltani/>

VI.2 In an October 2013 ruling, Massoumeh Dehghan’s one-year prison sentence and five-year travel ban for traveling to Germany and accepting a human rights award on behalf of her husband, the imprisoned human rights lawyer Abdolfattah Soltani, was upheld. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/massoumeh-dehghan/>

VI.3 In an October 2013 ruling, the court upheld the March 2013 six-year prison sentence for the lawyer Mohammad Seifzadeh, for a critical letter he had written to former (reformist) Iranian president Mohammad Khatami. This sentence followed a previous two-year sentence he had just finished serving for establishing the Defenders of Human Rights Center. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/mohammad-seifzadeh/>

VI.4 Human rights activist Mansoureh Behkish was told on August 26, 2013 by the Intelligence Ministry, where she was repeatedly summoned, that if she continued to write letters to President Rouhani, visit the graves of her family members, or hold any events commemorating the executions of 1988, she would be imprisoned. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/09/mourning-mother/>

VI.5 Lawyer Massoud Shafiee has been repeatedly interrogated, most recently in August 2013, his passport was confiscated, his home searched, his communications monitored, and he has been effectively blacklisted and thus prevented from continuing his professional duties, without any legal ruling or judicial order, for his work representing three American hikers who were detained in Iran in 2009 and 2010. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/massoud_shafiee/

VI.6 In December 2013, the home of human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh was ransacked and looted in the family’s absence, two weeks after Sotoudeh received the EU’s 2012 Sakharov Prize. The raid came after members of Iran’s Parliament sharply criticized the European Parliament delegation’s meeting with Sotoudeh. The homes and telephone lines of political dissidents are routinely monitored by Iran’s security organizations, and as such it is doubtful that security organizations have not tracked the comings and goings to the Sotoudeh residence in Tehran, but there has been no arrest in the case.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/sotoudeh-raid/>

VI.7 Human rights lawyer Mohammad Ali Dadkhah was also prosecuted and imprisoned, on charges that included “membership in the Defenders of Human Rights Center” and “interviewing with foreign media.” A lower court gave Dadkhah a nine-year sentence plus a ten-year ban on practicing or teaching law, and an appeals court reduced it to an eight-year sentence plus the ten-year ban. He was in Evin prison from September 2012 to January 2013, and then released conditionally due to poor health, but he can be returned to complete his sentence at any time if the officials so decide as none of the charges were dropped. Mohammad Ali Dadkhah is the fifth member of the Defenders of Human Rights Center to have been imprisoned.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2012/10/dadkhah-2/>