

# HAMBASTEGI

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## First success and important victory for the Federation in the New Year **THE PRISON OF EDIRNE IS CLOSING DOWN!** Four Iranian prisoners of Edirne are being accepted as refugee

Following the worldwide campaign of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) regarding the prison of Edirne in Turkey and after extensively broadcasting news concerning the inhuman situations at the prison of Edirne, we became aware that Turkish authorities have proclaimed that the

prison is closing down in a near future and all prisoners will be transferred to another prison in the city of Edirne. Turkish authorities have mentioned that the reason for this transfer is the wear and tear and unfavorable conditions of the prison and higher standards are to be expected in the new prison.

As soon as the IFIR became aware of the unbearable situation at Edirne's prison, it started an extensive campaign by demanding the release of refugees, asking for amelioration of their living conditions and by reporting prisoners' situation to hundreds of hu-

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## **THE US FORCES AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS EXERCISING ORGANIZED AGGRESSION AGAINST TIPF REFUGEES**

Based on the news obtained by the office of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) a number of European governments are refusing to admit their share of refugees given by the UN commissioner on refugees, and are not willing to transfer the refugees settled in Iraq's TIPF. Swedish, French and Irish governments are collectively using the same argument referring to the fact that the Euro-

pean Union has recognized the Mujahedin of Khalgh as a terrorist organization and therefore could not accept ex-members of such group. This argument is a blow to the opposition, to the rights of refugees, and is against all international undertakings concerning refugees. It is more than 3 years that refugees settled in TIPF have abandoned Mujahedin's ideology and organization, and have not been in-

involved in any military activity. The very first day of their entrance to TIPF camp, they all have signed a legal document clearly announcing that they do not believe in military action and that they will not get involved in any type of military activity in the future. The same issue has been thoroughly investigated by the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) while inter-

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## **12 IRANIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE FREED FROM DETENTION CENTER IN BELGIUM.**

The 12 Iranian asylum seekers, who had been facing forcible return to Iran, from Belgium, were released on 21 December. Their lawyer will now be working to ensure that they obtain a legal right to remain in Belgium.

were freed to create more places in detention centers,

IFIR believe that international pressure, including Amnesty International Urgent Action a network, played a significant role in their release.

According to the lawyer, they were freed because the necessary paperwork to deport them never arrived from the Iranian government. The Belgian authorities also reportedly stated that the 12 Iranians

**International Federation of Iranian Refugees**

10 January 2007

## **TRANSFER OF TIPF REFUGEES TO SWEDEN:**

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## **4 IRANIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS, IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEPORTATION TO IRAN**

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### Mansoor Hekmat (1951-2002)

Mansoor Hekmat 1951-2002: With the bloody suppression of the revolution in Iran and the imposition of an ultra-reactionary life on the people, tens of thousands of human beings, alone and without organisation, fled the Islamic Republic of Iran in search of security and tranquillity. Organising this vast human mass around the most modern and humane advances of humanity, unconditionally defending their right to asylum; placing them alongside the humanitarian and working class struggle in the West against racism, fascism, and social inequality; creating an international organisation without taking into consideration people's nationality, religion, sex and or political affiliation became an immediate necessity. Creating the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) was Mansoor Hekmat's response to these conditions. As he has said: 'Our entire life story is to change the lives of human beings.'

## 4 IRANIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS, IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEPORTATION TO IRAN

### INTERVENE TO SAVE THEM AND THEIR LIFE

4 Iranian asylum seekers and political activist, who fled Iran because of persecution at the hands of the Islamic regime of Iran, are due to be deported back to Iran. Their names are:

- Mr. Ali Reza Ranjbar
- Mr. Seyed Ali Alemzadeh
- Mr. Mojtaba Vatanpour Naderani
- Mr. Abolfazl Ajorlou

They have well-founded fear of persecution based on political opinion and social activities against the Iranian regime. They are known political activ-

ist and member of the Iranian political and opposition party. By any standards, all above name must be recognised as refugee by the UNHCR. They have been interviewed and till now there is no positive decision on their request for asylum by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Turkey. During this time, they have been subjected to appalling physical and mental pressures with no support from the UNHCR office in Turkey.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) demands that all above Iranian asylum seekers be granted refu-

gee status, their deportation order are cancelled.

Their life is in serious danger. IFIR calls on concerned individuals and organizations to intervene and put pressure on the UNHCR and the Turkish government to cancel their deportation immediately and grant them protection.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) call upon all refugees and asylum seekers, progressive political parties, trades unions and civil rights organizations to lend their support to this demands.

Please send your protest letters to the UNHCR and the Turkish government as following address with copies to IFIR.

**International Federation of Iranian refugees (IFIR)**

**11 January 2007**

### TRANSFER OF TIPF REFUGEES ..

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. with the Mujahedin. Mina Ahadi while criticizing the Swedish government for its encounter with the opposition forces and dissidents against the Islamic Republic of Iran, inquired that these refugees be accepted and immediately transferred to Sweden.

Delegates of the Swedish foreign affair ministry proclaimed that unfortunately they do not have detailed information regarding this issue and regarding decisions made by the immigration ministry and asked the office of IFIR to immediately send the information to them. They promised that they will start their follow up as soon as they receive the information and will communicate the result with the Federation.

The IFIR condemns the Swedish government's decision of refusal of acceptance and transfer of TIPF's refugees to Sweden. The IFIR will continue its activities to put pressure on the Swedish government to change its decision concerning this important humanitarian issue.

**International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)**

**A REFUGEE IS ANYONE WHO SEEKS REFUGE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR A SAFER AND FREER LIFE AS A RESULT OF VARIOUS POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES. WHILE THE CAUSES OF FLIGHT ARE NUMEROUS, REASONS ARE SIMILAR IN NATURE AND INDICATIVE OF DESPOTIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND REGIMES. CONSEQUENTLY, ANYONE WHO FLEES WAR, VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, RIGHTLESSNESS, DESPOTISM, AND THE DOMINATION OF REPRESSIVE RELIGIOUS, NATIONALISTIC AND RIGHTS VIOLATING STATES OR GROUPS - WHETHER STATE OR NON-STATE - MUST BE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS.**

**(FROM DECLARATION OF REFUGEE RIGHTS - IFIR)**



# REPORT ON IFIR'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANADA ON CAMPAIGN TO SAVE NAZANIN FATEHI

*Sunday 7th January 2007, members of the Vancouver chapter of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) came together to watch a documentary created by Afshin-Jam and her recording label Bodog Entertainment.*

*After a showing of the documentary, which shows both women's fight for justice and includes moving footage of Fatehi speaking to her family in Iran from prison, the group spoke about their campaign to end all capital punishment in their home country*

## BEAUTY QUEEN BACKS CONDEMNED TEEN

Ex-Miss World Canada works to free Iranian on death row who killed rapist

Glenda Luymes, The Province

Published: Monday, January 08, 2007

They have one thing in common -- Nazanin Fatehi and Nazanin Afshin-Jam share a name.

But while Fatehi waits on Iran's version of death row, Afshin-Jam, a former Miss World Canada pageant winner, is working to have the Iranian teen's sentence overturned, spending much of her time at a computer in the bedroom of her apartment in Vancouver's Yaletown.

On Wednesday, both women will find out if Fatehi will live or die.

"She is always with me," Afshin-Jam said yesterday. "She is always on my mind. I've been nervous about this for the last 10 months."

The pageant winner and pop singer learned Fatehi's story last winter when she was contacted by a stranger who thought it was interesting the two shared a name.



Before that, Afshin-Jam had never heard of Fatehi, who was sentenced Jan. 3, 2006, to hang after admitting she stabbed to death one of three men who tried to rape her and a 16-year-old niece. Fatehi was 17 at the time.

"When I learned Nazanin's story I was horrified," said Afshin-Jam, 26. "I couldn't get it out of my mind. I felt I had to do something."

Using her fame as Miss World Canada and knowledge gained through an international relations degree, Afshin-Jam started a petition to save Nazanin. So far, she has collected

more than 232,000 signatures, which have been delivered to the Iranian government.

She has also visited Ottawa and the United Nations headquarters in New York, asking politicians to put political pressure on Iran to stop the execution.

In June, Fatehi's death sentence

tion . . . I feel like I need to be a voice for those who don't have a voice."

Yesterday, members of the Vancouver chapter of the Federation of Iranian Refugees came together to watch a documentary created by Afshin-Jam and her recording label Bodog Entertainment.

After a showing of the documentary, which shows both women's fight for justice and includes moving footage of Fatehi speaking to her family in Iran from prison, the group spoke about their campaign to end all capital punishment in their home country.

"This can't continue. It must stop," said Tammy Sadeghi. "We hope Nazanin's story will touch people's hearts. As we've seen, public pressure can bring about change. The government stopped the execution once before and it can do it again."

Suzanne Mohammidi came to Vancouver as a refugee four months ago. Watching the documentary yesterday she sobbed quietly.

"This woman's situation makes me very upset. It doesn't matter if we're not related. It's just terrible that she tried to defend herself and now she might be put to death."

Abbas Mohammidi was more optimistic. "I'm hopeful we'll have a victory celebration on Wednesday," he said. "I think that the next time we come together, Nazanin will be free."

was stayed and a retrial ordered. The second trial is scheduled to end Wednesday in Tehran.

"This isn't just about Nazanin," said Afshin-Jam, whose family left Iran when she was two years old. "This is about the right for all people to have a fair trial. It's something that affects us all as human beings."

If Fatehi had allowed the men to rape her, she would have been given 100 lashes under Iranian law. If she had been married at the time, she could have been found guilty of adultery and sentenced to death by stoning. "It's a double-edged sword," said Afshin-Jam. "Women [in Iran] have no op-



## THE PRISON OF EDIRNE

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hundreds of human rights and refugees organizations around the world. The conditions of this prison and of few Iranian refugees were also reported to the UN High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR), Turkish internal affairs and foreign affairs Ministries, and governmental and international organizations, asking for direct intervention of UNHCR for recognition of the rights of these Ira-

nian prisoners to acquire refugee status and to be released from prison immediately. In reaction to this campaign Turkish governmental authorities decided to close down Edirne's prison and free few Iranian refugees. Meanwhile the four Iranian prisoners for whom we had asked an immediate refugee status were all granted refugee status in a short interval and will be freed soon.

This advance and success is a

big step for the movement defending human and refugee rights. But this campaign will to stop here and will continue all efforts until reaching its goal which is acquiring its claims and freeing all imprisoned refugees. IFIR will also continue to follow up on living conditions in the new prison and will reveal any aggression to the rights of refugees and prisoners.

IFIR congratulates all these refugees as well as all organiza-

tions and individuals who have helped us in this campaign and emphasizes again that it is only through international solidarity of the front of human rights activists that pain can be effaced from the figure of the human being and better living conditions can be offered.

**Hambastegi – International Federation of Iranian Refugees**

**Jan 5, 2007**

## THE US FORCES AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS EXERCISING ORGANIZED AGGRESSION AGAINST TIPF REFUGEES

### From page 1

The very first day of their entrance to TIPF camp, they all have signed a legal document clearly announcing that they do not believe in military action and that they will not get involved in any type of military activity in the future. The same issue has been thoroughly investigated by the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) while interviewing these refugees and only after becoming confident that they will no more be engaged in any military activity, the UNHCR has agreed to grant them with refugee status.

On the other hand, the history of their collaboration with the Mujahedin organization should by no means indefinitely deprive them from being supported, protected and settled as refugees in European countries. Based on international laws, these governments have the

obligation to admit these refugees and refusing to accept them has a specific political meaning and is considered a synchronized action linked to behind the curtain deals made over the fate of these refugees.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) firmly condemns the European governments for their way of dealing with these refugees and will put a complaint against these governments to the International and Human Rights associations. We are asking the UNHCR to immediately let the public know through a press statement, about the reasons and the obstacles of the transfer of TIPF refugees and to put pressure on European governments to immediately transfer these refugees to safe third countries.

Again, based on the news that we have received, since 4 days ago, two other refugee representatives in TIPF have been arrested by the US forces for their role in organizing refugee protests. They currently are kept in solitary cells. The name of one of the representatives is Hamid Mohhebi. At the same time, the US Forces at TIPF have attacked the protesting refugees

who are in a sit-in strike and while removing all the placards and banners, have announced that they will no more tolerate these protests and that the refugees should end their sit-in strike. At this time refugees and American military commanders have entered a heated argument and refugees, all unified, have protested against the aggression of the American forces. In their contact with the office of IFIR, TIPF refugees have announced that they will continue their fight and protest against the present situation until reaching their final goal which is to be transferred to another camp where they would

be under the direct watch of the UN Commissioner on Refugees and until transfer to a third safe country.

While the IFIR is strongly condemning the American forces for their constant attacks on TIPF refugees, we strongly support the refugees' campaign to reach their legitimate requests.

Again, we are sending an appeal to all human rights organizations and all structures defending the rights of refugees to object to the inhuman behavior of Americans and Western governments and to ask for immediate transfer of all these refugees to a third safe country. This transfer is the most human way and the only decent alternative to solve this problem.

**International Federation of Iranian Refugees**



## HAMBASTEGI

paper of International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)

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# TRANSFER OF TIPF REFUGEES TO SWEDEN:

## IFIR'S DELEGATES MEETING WITH SWEDISH FOREIGN AFFAIR MINISTRY

In early Dec. 2006, the office of the International Federation of Iranian refugees (IFIR) was made aware that the Swedish government has refused to accept the ex-members of Mujahedin of Khalgh, refugees settled at TIPF camp of Iraq. The Federation initiated sets of actions to impact the Swedish government's decision making process. One of the IFIR's measures was to address this problem at a meeting with highly ranked officers of the Swedish foreign affair ministry.

On December 13/2006, IRIR's delegates Mina Ahadi and Afsahneh Vahdat met with the following officers of

the Swedish foreign affair ministry: Daniel Emilson, responsible for the Middle East and Northern Africa section, Ana lay Kind responsible for Iran and Iraq section, Victoria Lee the Human Rights responsible of the ministry and two other colleagues of the ministry.

The agenda of this meeting was regarding the increasing number of execution verdicts in Iran especially execution of children and teen agers as well as court orders of stoning. In continuation to these conversations the subject of the situation of Iranian refugees at Iraq's TIPF came into the discussion.

During this meeting Mina Ahadi explained in details the situation of these refugees from the beginning until today and emphasized that these refugees are all dissidents against the Islamic Republic of Iran and could not return to Iran nor they could stay in Iraq; that 10 refugees who had family members in Sweden were planned by the UNHCR to be transferred to Sweden, but the Swedish government after having meeting with Swedish security office, has refused to accept these refugees, because of the past collaborations of these refugees with the Muja-

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## JOIN IFIR

\* I wish to join the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) as:

\_\_\_ Member (£25.00 p.a.) \_\_\_ Affiliated Group (£100.00 p.a.)

\* I wish to make a donation of: £\_\_\_ I wish to subscribe to Hambastegi English or Iran Monitor: \_\_\_ (£50.00 p.a.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make cheques payable to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and mail to Postbus 1312, 5602 BH Eindhoven, Netherlands

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Please pay the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no: \_\_\_\_\_

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