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Subject: Open discussion on issues raised by Evin prisoners
The official: Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor of Tehran, Assadollah Lajevardi
The occasion: Questions and answers with Evin prisoners in Evin Prison
Date: The second week of January 1982
Source: *Ettela'at*, 19 and 20 January 1982

Last week, Assadollah Lajevardi, the Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor of Tehran, participated in an open discussion with Evin prisoners and answered their questions regarding prison issues and daily concerns. One of the detainees asked Mr. Lajevardi:

“[Prosecutor General] Mr. Musavi Tabrizi has said in an interview: any person arrested by us is apprised of the charge(s) brought against him within 24 to 48 hours. But [how is it that] there are individuals here who [since their arrest], one to six months ago, have not even been called for questioning, and do not even know what they are accused of?” . . .

[Response by Lajevardi:] “Our duty is to question you shortly after [your arrest]. But you all know that for this regime, we had built no prisons, nor prepared any interrogators or prosecutors. We did not expect to see such a day [of such opposition]. As I brought to your attention earlier, we left the responsibility of questioning, interrogating, fact-finding, pursuing, prosecuting, and looking

after [the accused] to our brothers who are few in number. [And] we have no plans for increasing their numbers because we are hopeful that a red line will soon be drawn on such misguided actions [as yours], and that they will cease to exist forever, thus stopping us from [having to] waste our resources on such matters. . . .

“ . . . On the other hand, you yourselves are to blame because prior to [the month of June] the charges were stated and brought in an hour against any individual who was arrested. Now, you have participated in armed, unauthorized demonstrations and have been arrested by Hezbollah; this doesn't require us to inform you of any charges, since you yourselves know better the reason for which you have been arrested, as do we. . . . There's no need [for us] to inform you of the charges against you.”

One of those [prisoners] who had repented asked the following question of Mr. Lajevardi: “As you are aware, the conditions that were set by the judiciary



for releasing prisoners were that they should express remorse and repent. [So] when prisoners are not released, does it not create an issue in people's minds that it is because they have not repented? Yet, Mr. Musavi Tabrizi said in an interview that 90% of the prisoners have repented [but still remain in custody]. How do you explain this?"

... [Lajevardi responded:] "God may have accepted your repentance, but proving this is important to us. When this is proven to us, rest assured that you will not be kept here for even a moment. However, proving this issue is somewhat difficult. Put yourself in our place and also consider the issue of the *nefaq* [hypocrisy—pejorative term used as reference to the Mojahedin Khalq Organization]. You will see that those who, in our presence, repeatedly claim to be Hezbollahis, and say they have repented, once [they are alone], seated next

to each other back in a room, embark on a different type of discussion.

"... There have been individuals who have repented. As I told you before, we released the ones about whom we became certain. In your case, too, if we become certain and convinced that you have repented, you will be freed."

... In response to a prisoner's question as to why they were not allowed visitations, Mr. Lajevardi stated:

"... We do not trust you. That's why we're not going to allow you to visit with your brothers and comrades of the Organization in some garden so you can exchange information... No, we will not do that."

