

IRAN: FREE IMPRISONED STUDENT I FADER

Student leader Majid Tavakkoli, aged about 24 and who studies shipbuilding, was beaten and arrested on 7 December 2009 while leaving Amir Kabir University of Technology in Tehran. He had just spoken at a peaceful rally marking Student Day. The demonstration was part of anti-government protests that followed the disputed presidential election of June 2009.

The following day, pictures of Majid Tavakkoli wearing women's clothing were published on a pro-government news agency, apparently to humiliate him. Hundreds of Iranian men protested by posting on the internet pictures of themselves wearing scarves. Majid Tavakkoli was subsequently sentenced to eight and a half years in jail for insulting officials, spreading propaganda against the state and gathering and colluding with intent to harm state security. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Dozens of students and others were arrested around the 7 December protests, which took place across the country. Many have been released, but an unknown number remain in detention, some sentenced to prison terms.

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THE POSTCARD BELOW



Image: Majid Tavakkoli © Private

Index: MDE 13/044/2010

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned that student leader Majid Tavakkoli is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. I urge you to ensure his immediate and unconditional release, and order a prompt and impartial investigation into reports that he was beaten during arrest.

I also urge you to allow peaceful demonstrations, in accordance with Iran's obligations under Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Yours sincerely,

W			
Name:			
Country:			

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur Street, Vali Asr Avenue, south of
Serah-e Jomhouri

Tehran, 1316814737

Islamic Republic of Iran

Image: Maiid Tavakkoli © Private

Image: Majid Tavakkoli © Private Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X ODW, United Kingdom. www.amnesty.org