

### Clashes in central Tehran

Thousands of residents of Tehran clashed with security forces late on Tuesday in anti-government protests in various parts of the Iranian capital. Security forces used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowds.

At one of the demonstrations in Tehran's north-western Sadeghieh district, some protesters burnt pictures of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who has frequently become the target of protestors' anger in recent rallies.

There were clashes in central Tehran's Vali Asr Square between security forces and protesters who chanted "Death to Khamenei". Security forces stationed at nearby Enghelab Square arrested several dozen protesters, an Iran Focus correspondent reported.

Eye-witnesses in the southern city of Shiraz reported protests and clashes, with several arrests.

There were also sporadic clashes between protesters and plainclothes agents in Kermanshah, the largest city in western Iran. The protests Tuesday follow major anti-government rallies on 14 and 20 February despite the deployment of thousands of security forces, plainclothes officers and members of the paramilitary Bassij militia throughout the country. (Iran Focus - March 1, 2011)



### More than 100 protesters arrested in Rasht

Protesters in Rasht held widespread protests, chanting 'death to dictator'... Security forces and plainclothes agents violently attacked the protesters trying to disperse them. These clashes went on for some time and more than 100 protesters especially young people, were arrested. (Human Rights and Democracy Activists in Iran – Mar. 1, 2011)

### 30 male and female protesters violently arrested in Tehran's Palestine Street

The presence of people in Palestine Street led to violent confrontations by security forces and the arrest of about 30 men and women. According to our reporter who was on the scene, security forces forced 10 young men who they had detained to lie down on the ground. The agents pulled their shirts over their heads and beat them. Security forces kept male and female detainees in vans and even beat them inside these black vans. A young woman was violently pulled on the ground to the van. Her cries were very heartbreaking for the people on the scene. (Committee of Human Rights Reporters – Mar. 1, 2011)

### More than 200 students in Shiraz University banned from education for commemorating their slain classmate

More than 200 students of the Shiraz University have been banned from education by the university's Disciplinary Committee. According to reports, these students were banned from education because of participating in a protest gathering and were sentenced to at least two semesters of suspension from university. The gathering which was held on Wednesday in protest to the killing of a Shiraz University student by security forces was held simultaneously with the February 20 protests. (Kalameh Website – Feb. 26, 2011)

## Student activists tortured in Babol



After the events of February 14 and February 20, security forces in Babol arrested a number of activists and students.

Daniel Zargarilan and Milad Taheri are two activists who were arrested by security forces and were transferred to an unknown location. Zargarilan was arrested on February 14 while Taheri was arrested on February 20 in Shariati Street (outside of the Industrial Nounshirvani University in Babol).

A local source said that the detained activists have been tortured by security forces. This activist who was recently released from prison and asked not to be named stressed that after the arrests, security forces blindfolded them and took them to an unknown location where they were subjected to severe torture. This activist said that security forces kicked, punched and beat the detainees with batons until morning without even asking them any questions.

He also said that interrogators who introduced themselves as agents of the Babol Intelligence agency, put them under pressure to ‘confess’ against a number of political and student activists in Babol. (Daneshju News – Feb. 26, 2011)

## Political prisoner one step closer to execution



The family of death row political prisoner Hamid Qasemi Shal has announced that this Iranian-Canadian man is in danger of execution. They have asked international institutions and all those who can help not to let the ‘blood of an innocent person be spilled’.

Qasemi Shal has been in prison since June 13, 2008 and has been sentenced to death by the 29<sup>th</sup> branch of the Revolutionary Court on charges of espionage and having links to the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran. His sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court and he is on the verge of execution because his request for amnesty was rejected.

His sister says that her brother was not involved in any political activities and that there is no evidence that proves the charges brought against him which has led to the death sentence. (Human Rights Activists in Iran – Feb. 28, 2011) <http://www.hra-news.org/2/00/7083-1.html>

## Female political prisoner infected with Hepatitis B in Gohardasht Prison

Political prisoner Kobra Banazadeh Amirkhizi, 56, who’s been in prisons during the 80’s, was recently infected with Hepatitis B in the Gohardasht Prison infirmary. She was taken to the infirmary for so-called treatment but unclean material was used to treat her. She is in very critical condition but intelligence interrogators refuse to allow her treatment outside of prison. Mrs. Banazadeh suffered from an eye injury before this due to torture in cellblock 209 in Evin Prison and being struck on the head and lost a large portion on her eyesight.

Notably, this political prisoner was arrested on January 16, 2009 in the Khomeini Airport when she intended to visit her children and family in Camp Ashraf in Iraq, despite having a visa and passport. She was arrested along with 18 other elderly mothers and fathers and was taken to cellblock 209 in Evin Prison where she was under mental and physical torture by interrogators of the Ministry of Intelligence for several months. Banazadeh was sentenced to five years of prison to be served in Gohardasht Prison in Karaj. (Human Rights and Democracy Activists in Iran – Feb. 28, 2011)

