

RELEASE AHWAZI CHILDREN AND WOMEN!

IRAN IN VIOLATION OF UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Masouma Kaabi, 28, and son **Aimad**, 4

Arrested: 8 March

Imprisoned: Sepidar prison

Background: Masouma is the wife of political activist Habib Nabgan, who has fled the country. Habib's mother and his four other children were also arrested but released the next day. He has received threats that his family will be tortured or killed if he does not return to Iran.



Hoda Hawashem, 24, and sons **Ahmed**, 4, and **Osameh**, 2

Arrested: 31 March 2006?

Imprisoned: Not known

Background: Wife and sons of Ahwazi opposition activist Habib Faraj-allah

Soghra Khudayrawi and son **Zeidan**, 4

Arrested: unknown

Imprisoned: Sepidar prison

Background: Wife of Khalaf Derhab Khudayrawi, an Ahwazi opposition activist



Sakina Naisi, 40, and her unborn child

Arrested: 27 February 2006

Imprisoned: Sepidar prison

Background: Sakina is a mother of five and the wife of prominent Ahwazi opposition activist Ahmad Naisi. She was arrested with her 19-year-old son Nahez and taken to Sepidar prison. Nahez was released 10 days later. She was three months' pregnant at the time of her arrest. Her treatment and possible torture in prison along with her asthma condition—for which she received no medical treatment—led to problems with her pregnancy, forcing her to have an abortion. Following Sakina Naisi's arrest, the Iranian authorities destroyed her husband's family home in the Sho'aybiyeh district of Ahwaz with bulldozers.

None of the women have been charged with any crime. The imprisonment of women and children is a tactic used by the regime to silence opposition among Ahwazi Arabs, who have staged a number of large and peaceful anti-government demonstrations.

Iran has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. By holding Ahwazi children in prison, the Iranian government is breaching Article 19 (the right for protection from abuse) and Article 37 (children should not be subjected to torture or deprivation of liberty).

The imprisonment of the wives and children of political activists without charge is a gross breach of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including Articles 3, 5, 9, 10, 18 and 19.

Amnesty International, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation, the Ahwaz Human Rights Organisation, the Ahwaz Human Rights and Education Foundation, the British Ahwazi Friendship Society are among the non-governmental organisations who have called for the immediate release of Ahwazi women and children in Iranian custody.

We urge the international community to intervene and uphold the rights of the Ahwazi Arabs