



Iranian political prisoner

Mahdiah Golroo

Born August 25, 1985 in Tehran, Iran

Mahdiah Golroo, a student and women's rights activist, was imprisoned along with her husband on December 3, 2009, after security forces raided their home. Mahdiah's arrest followed her participation in a four day sit-in at Allameh Tabatabai University to protest

politically-motivated education bans on university students.

Mahdiah had previously been expelled from Allameh Tabatabai University due to her work for the Right to Education Council; she was not allowed to graduate or receive her degree. Mahdiah was also an active member of the Committee to Defend Citizens' Rights, a committee related to Mehdi Karroubi's presidential campaign.

After her and her husband's arrest in December 2009, and before her trial, she was held for five consecutive months. The bail necessary for her temporary release was set at \$500,000—a sum too large for her family to secure.

Mahdiah's trial was held on April 5, 2010 in front of Judge Pir-Abassi in the 26th branch of the Revolutionary Court. Judge Pir-Abassi sentenced Mahdiah to 28 months in prison. She has been charged with “anti-state propaganda,” “assembly and conspiracy to disturb public order,” and “having contacts with the *Mujahedeen-e Khalq* (MEK).” Mahdiah denies all charges.

Mahdiah's husband, Vahid Lalipoor, was arrested despite no prior political activities. He was held in Evin Prison until March 2010, in an effort by the authorities to secure a televised confession from Mahdiah. He was rearrested a few months later and sentenced to one year in prison which he has been serving since August 23, 2011.

In January 2011, the authorities filed another charge against Mahdiah of “disturbing public order” while in prison. The charge came after Mahdiah jointly issued a letter to commemorate Student Day on December 7, 2010, with fellow student activists and political prisoners Bahareh Hedayat and Majid Tavakoli.

As a result of the new charge, in November 2011, Mahdiah's prison term was extended another six months. She remains in the women's ward of Evin Prison and has repeatedly been denied visitation rights and the right to medical treatment for her health problems (intestinal complications). Her family claims that her condition “poses serious danger to her health.” The Evin Prison medical clinic has also denied her treatment on numerous occasions. Mahdiah has gone on hunger strike multiple times to protest the authorities' abuse.