



## **Iranian political prisoner**

### **Navid Khanjani**

**Born August 7, 1987 in Isfahan, Iran**

Navid Khanjani is a student activist and member of the Baha'i faith. He has engaged in peaceful human rights activities and is affiliated with human rights organizations. Navid was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment on January 30, 2011.

Navid was arrested in Isfahan on March 11, 2010. After spending 65 days in Evin prison, Section 2A, of which the first 25 days were in solitary confinement, Navid was released on \$100,000 bail. During his detention, Navid was subjected to intense interrogation and was forced under duress to record video confessions, which were self-incriminatory. He was brought to unfair trial on December 20, 2010, in Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court under Judge Pir-Abbasi.

Navid was blindfolded by a prison official for refusing to “confess” on camera, and was then beaten and suffered strangulation. He was put on trial for activities that cannot be defined as crimes. Navid was charged with “acting against national security,” “propaganda against the regime,” “disturbing public order,” and libel for founding the Baha'i Education Rights Committee (which campaigns for Baha'is to be allowed to attend university), and for being a member of two human rights organizations: the Committee of Human Rights Reporters and the Human Rights Activists-Iran.

Navid was denied his own choice of lawyer until just before his trial when Shima Ghooshe was able to represent him. The hearing was conducted behind closed doors, with only plainclothes security officials and Navid's lawyer in attendance. He was eventually released on a \$100,000 bail on May 3, 2010.

In August 2011, the 54<sup>th</sup> branch of the Revolutionary Court upheld Navid's 12-year prison sentence. Although he remains out of prison and has not yet begun serving this sentence, the Islamic Republic officials continue a barrage of intimidation, threats and summons.

Navid's 12-year sentence is the longest that Iran has given to a human rights activist. In addition to 12 years in prison, Navid has been banned from attending university and from leaving the country.

