

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:03 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: S Iran Statement

FYI – Bill B is okay with this.

From: Button, Case
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 1:09 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Adler, Caroline E; Relnes, Philippe I; Fuchs, Michael H
Cc: Schwerin, Daniel B
Subject: S Iran Statement

To complement the media note below, NEA [redacted] would like this to go out this afternoon.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
For Immediate Release
2011/xxx

February 23, 2011

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON
Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in Iran

The United States remains deeply concerned by the persecution of Iranian citizens at the hand of their government. Over the past ten days, we have witnessed the bravery of thousands of Iranians who once again took to the streets to exercise their fundamental rights to peaceful assembly and expression. It has been made clear to the world that Iran denies its citizens the same fundamental rights it continues to applaud elsewhere in the Middle East.

Security forces have beaten, detained, and - in at least three cases - killed peaceful protesters. Off the streets, the regime's leaders have targeted human rights defenders and political activists, and authorities have recently rounded-up ex-government officials and their families; former members of parliament; clerics and their children; student leaders and their professors; as well as journalists and bloggers. They also continue to deny their citizens access to information by jamming satellite transmissions and blocking internet sites.

Iran's leaders also continue to persecute ethnic and religious minorities. We are troubled by reports that, of the dozens of prisoners executed in 2011, most are ethnic minorities. At the same time, Baha'is and other religious minorities continue to be subjected to arbitrary arrests and prosecutions, harsh sentences, and unsafe prison conditions. We call on Iran to free all political prisoners and persecuted minorities.

The steady deterioration in human rights conditions in Iran has obliged the international community to speak out time and again. Today, the United States sanctions two Iranian officials - in addition to the eight sanctioned by the President last fall - for perpetrating these abuses. The world will continue to watch and will hold accountable those responsible for these actions. The United States joins the international community in affirming the universal rights to which all men and women - in Iran and around the world - are entitled. ###

Drafted: Stephanie Hallett, NEA/IR, x72498, 202-255-1009

Approved: NEA/FO: PDibble ok
NEA/FO: GHoltz ok
DRL/FO: KFitzpatrick ok

Cleared: D(S): DSchrepel ok
D(N): SCarl-Yoder ok
P: ECatalano ok
S/P: JBurns info
L/EB: DMortlock ok
EEB: KHumphrey ok
NEA/PPD: ASayles ok
NEA/IR: JHood ok
NEA/IR: SHallett ok
NEA: ADjerasi ok
DRL/NESCA: JHutchings ok

PA/SCT: DSchwerin ok
S/P: CButton ok

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From: State Department Press Office [mailto:Press@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 12:55 PM
To: State Department Press Office
Subject: MEDIA NOTE- Departments of the Treasury and State Announce Designations of Tehran Prosecutor General , Basij Commander for Human Rights Abuses in Iran

For Immediate Release and Posting

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate
Release
2011/265

February 23, 2011

MEDIA NOTE

Departments of the Treasury and State Announce Designations of Tehran Prosecutor General, Basij
Commander for Human Rights Abuses in Iran

To view a fact sheet on Executive Order 13553 visit [link](#).

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Departments of the Treasury and State today announced the designation of two Iranian officials, Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi, Tehran Prosecutor General, and Mohammed Reza Naqdi, commander of the IRGC's Basij Forces, for being responsible for or complicit in serious human rights abuses in Iran since the June 2009 disputed presidential election.

Today's action was taken pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13553, signed by President Obama in September 2010, to provide the United States with new tools to target human rights abuses engaged in by officials by the Government of Iran. As a result of today's action, any property in the United States or in the possession or

control of U.S. persons in which the designees have an interest is blocked, and U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with them. The designees are also subject to visa sanctions by the Department of State.

"Today's designations highlight the complicity of two Iranian officials in significant human right abuses against the Iranian people," said OFAC Director Adam J. Szubin. "Dolatabadi and Naqdi have no place in the international financial system."

State Department Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner added, "Today's action underscores our enduring commitment to support Iranians seeking to exercise their universal rights and expresses our solidarity with victims of torture, persecution, and arbitrary detention."

Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi

Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi was appointed as Tehran Prosecutor General in August 2009. Since his appointment, Dolatabadi's office has indicted a large number of protesters, including individuals who took part in the December 2009 Ashura Day protests, which saw large scale clashes between demonstrators and security forces resulting in deaths and severe injuries. His office has charged protesters with the charge of *Muharebeh*, or enmity against God, which carries a death sentence, and denied due process to those facing the death sentence. His office has also targeted and arrested reformists, human rights activists, and members of the media, as part of a broad crackdown on the political opposition.

Some of the defendants were tried at Evin court, which had been recently created within the confines of the notorious Evin prison and whose creation Dolatabadi defended in March 2010. In Evin prison, some of the defendants were held in solitary confinement, abused, and coerced into making false self-incriminating statements.

President Obama identified Dolatabadi's predecessor, Saeed Mortazavi, for sanctions under E.O. 13553 by listing him in the Annex to the Order.

Mohammed Reza Naqdi

As commander of the IRGC's Basij Forces, Naqdi was responsible for or complicit in Basij abuses occurring in late 2009, including the violent response to the December 2009 Ashura Day protests, which resulted in up to 15 deaths and the arrests of hundreds of protesters.

Prior to his appointment as commander of the Basij in October 2009, Naqdi was the head of the intelligence unit of the Basij responsible for interrogating those arrested during the post-election crackdown and was in charge of an interrogation team at the Kahrizak detention center. Naqdi extracted forced confessions from high-ranking reformist leaders that were broadcast on Iranian state-run television. At least three demonstrators are reported to have died as a result of injuries sustained at the Kahrizak detention center.

Identifying Information:

Individual:	JAFARI DOLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JA'AFARI DOLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JAFARI DOLAT-ABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JAFARI DOVLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JAFARI DOWLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JA'FARI-DOLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JAFARI-DOLATABADI, Abbas
AKA:	JA'FARI-DOWLATABADI, Abbas
DOB:	1953

Address: Tehran Revolutionary and Public Court, Office of Tehran Prosecutor, Arag Circle,
Tehran, Iran

Individual: **NAQDI, Mohammad Reza**
AKA: NAGHDI, Mohammad Reza
AKA: NAQDI, Muhammad
AKA: SHAMS, Mohammad Reza
DOB: circa 1952
Alt DOB: circa Mar 1961
Alt DOB: circa Apr 1961
Alt DOB: 1953
POB: Najaf, Iraq
Alt POB: Tehran, Iran

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