

In-session Resolution on Iran submitted by the Iranian PEN Centre in Exile.

"The Assembly of Delegates of the 65th Congress of International P.E.N. meeting at the 65th World Congress held in Helsinki, Finland, between 6 and 11 September 1998:

Gravely concerned at the arrest in June 1998 of the cleric Sa'idzadeh, an essayist, author and scholar of Islamic Law;

Alarmed that his arrest may be connected to articles in which he advocated that the Iranian parliament should vote against proposed laws re-affirming restrictions on women in public and private life;

Further concerned at the detention of Morteza Firoozi, and ~~XX~~ Piروز Davani, editor and writer respectively;

Recalling that this year is the tenth anniversary of the massacre of prisoners, amongst whom were numerous writers, poets and journalists, on orders of Khomeini;

Notes that the suspicious deaths in recent years of writers Ahmad Miralai, Ghaffor Hoseini and Ebrahim Zalzadeh alongside the disappearance in 1996 and 1997 of Mohammed Hossein Shahrak-Pur Tahmaseb and Karamollah Tavahodi, have yet to be properly investigated and clarified;

Therefore calls upon the Iranian government to:

Release all writers detained solely for the practice of their right to freedom of expression as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Initiate full and impartial investigations into the unsolved deaths and disappearances of other writers, make the findings of such investigations public and bring to prosecution any individual involved in their deaths or abduction;

Discontinue all harassment and other practices which serve to intimidate writers who express their views, and to observe principles and rights set out in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Seconded by the USA West Centre and carried unanimously. —