

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

September 25, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

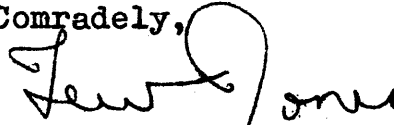
Enclosed is a mailing from the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran (CAIFI) concerning their projected tours for the fall. We want to help build and organize these tours in cooperation with the local chapters of CAIFI where they exist and with other organizations sympathetic to the victims of Iranian repression. CAIFI is unable at this time to schedule tours through all the cities in which there are SWP branches, but if there are areas not on the schedule which feel that a CAIFI speaker would be especially valuable and can raise the necessary honoraria to make it possible, they should contact the CAIFI office to arrange for a speaker.

One of the major purposes for the tour is to raise the money necessary to fund CAIFI's work, and steps should be taken right away to obtain honoraria for the speakers. There are various organizations and academic departments which can be approached for funds for this tour which we would not normally approach for speakers from the SWP. All honoraria above the tour fee should go directly to CAIFI.

As the CAIFI cover letter indicates, special effort should be made to have as broad sponsorship as possible for these meetings.

Any questions or problems on the dates and tour fees should be directed to the CAIFI office, 156 Fifth Ave., room 703, New York, N.Y. 10010 (212)691-0167.

Comradely,



Lew Jones
National Office

Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran



Khosrow Golsorkhi (left front) and Karamat Daneshian (right front), two Iranian writers executed Feb. 18, 1974. The photo is of the mass trial in a military court in January 1974.

Writers, filmmakers, poets, scholars, artists, and others in Iran are forced to work in an atmosphere in which freedom of intellectual expression is stifled by harsh government repression. Arbitrary arrests, secret trials by military tribunals, torture, and summary executions are meted out by the monarch to those whose ideas do not conform to his wishes.

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was returned to power in 1953 after a CIA-backed coup overthrew the popular government headed by Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, appeared on U.S. television in 1974. In an interview on CBS's "Sixty Minutes" he admitted executing two prominent writers, Khosrow Golsorkhi and Karamat Daneshian, and volunteered that he had also executed six others the following day. The six, from Ghom, had never been tried. They simply disappeared; later their deaths were reported in the Iranian press.

Josette Alia, writing in the prestigious Paris weekly, *Le Nouvel Observateur* (6/24/74), stated that "The political repression [in Iran] is widespread and extremely harsh." Alia indicated that, according to official figures, in the last two years, 200 people have been shot for political crimes alone, and, "it is estimated that 25,000 to 40,000 persons are imprisoned for political reasons."

It is in this context of repression of intellectual freedom of expression that the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran (CAIFI) was formed.

CAIFI

The Committee began as an ad hoc coalition formed to protest the arrest

and torture of the prominent poet and literary critic, Dr. Reza Baraheni. In September, 1973, he was seized by SAVAK (the secret police) shortly after the publication of his article criticizing the suppression of the Azarbaijani nationality by the regime. No formal charges were brought against Baraheni. A campaign of publicity that included letters from U.S. writers and artists, and the support of organizations such as P.E.N., a world association of writers, and Amnesty International secured the release of Dr. Baraheni. But he remains in danger of further reprisals for his ideas.

Moreover, as Dr. Baraheni was released, a group of twelve writers, artists, and filmmakers were brought to trial in a kangaroo-court military tribunal. Two of the writers were executed while ten others were given three-year-to-life sentences on the basis of "confessions" extracted through torture. The Iranian government announced the arrest of the twelve one year after their actual arrest, according to the October 4, 1973 issue of *Le Monde*. Despite the international outcry over the trial of the twelve, including protests by P.E.N., Amnesty International, the World Confederation of Iranian Students and CAIFI, the shah's government murdered Golsorkhi and Daneshian on February 18, 1974.

These cases underscored the need for an ongoing organization to publicize the cases of intellectuals and artists victimized by the Iranian government and to defend the rights of the victims. CAIFI was formed to do this by those who had come together in defense of Dr. Baraheni. Its statement of purpose is simple:



Vida Hadjebi Tabrizi

- to work for freedom of artistic and intellectual expression in Iran
- to bring the issues of the defense of victimized artists and intellectuals in Iran to public attention
- to raise funds for legal and publicity expenses.

CAIFI is currently engaged in publicizing the following cases:

THE CASE OF DR. REZA BARAHENI

In a letter from 35 prominent U.S. writers and artists printed in the December 16, 1973, *New York Times*, Dr. Baraheni was described as "a journalist, poet, novelist, playwright and scholar. Indeed, Mr. Baraheni is Iran's Solzhenitsyn—outspoken and fiercely independent." Despite his release in January 1974, Dr. Baraheni remains in a precarious situation, and unable to publish. Continued publicity provides a measure of protection against another arrest.

THE CASE OF VIDA HADJEBI TABRIZI

Ms. Tabrizi, who is a sociologist and researcher at the University of Tehran,

was arrested in July 1972. Although the Iranian government has not yet officially made her arrest public, she has been in Tehran's Evin Prison ever since. According to the Stockholm daily, *Dagens Nyheter* (8/31/73), before her arrest Tabrizi was investigating the "living conditions of Iran's peasant population." Since that time, Ms. Tabrizi has been subjected to such harsh torture that she has "lost any sense of feeling in her hands and feet, has developed a bad heart, bad blood circulation, meningitis, and no longer menstruates at all." Tabrizi was later sentenced to eight years imprisonment by a secret military trial. CAIFI, along with Amnesty International, is campaigning to force the Iranian government to disclose information about Tabrizi's condition, whereabouts, etc., and demanding her release.

THE CASE OF DR. ALI SHARIATTI

Dr. Shariatti, a major figure in a circle of Iranian religious intellectuals and a well-known writer, was imprisoned in Tehran by SAVAK, in September 1973. The charges against him have not been made public. Recent news indicates that Dr. Shariatti's father, who is over 70 years old, was also arrested. Both have been tortured. Since their arrest, they have been denied visitors—even from their immediate family.

Dr. Shariatti was the Educational Director of Hosseinieh Ershad, an Islamic theological school in Tehran which the Iranian government considered a center of political opposition. On November 15, 1972, the Iranian government closed Hosseinieh Ershad, and Dr. Shariatti became a target for the government. In connection with Dr.



Dr. Ali Shariati

Shariati's case, CAIFI is also publicizing the cases of four other writers and poets who are being held in jail for expressing their ideas.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

CAIFI seeks support, in the form of endorsement, contributions, and volunteer activity, from all those who support the rights of writers, intellectuals, and others to express their ideas freely without fear of government reprisals. Material on the cases listed above—fact sheets, sample protest letters, petitions, endorser cards, and other materials—is available from CAIFI. Use the coupon below to order.

CAIFI also has available a large (22" X 17"), trilingual, color poster with the slogan: "OPEN THE SHAH'S JAILS! FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!" in Persian, English, and French. These are

available for a donation of \$1. In addition the committee also has a two-color button with the slogan, "FREE THE SHAH'S POLITICAL PRISONERS" for 50¢ each. Write for information on bulk orders.

- I endorse the aims of the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran:
- to work for freedom of artistic and intellectual expression in Iran
 - to bring the issues of the defense of victimized artists and intellectuals in Iran to public attention
 - to raise funds for legal and publicity expenses.
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$_____
- Please send me more material on the cases mentioned in this brochure.
- I would like to join/form a CAIFI chapter in my area.
- Enclosed is \$1 donation. Please send me a poster.
- Enclosed is ___ for ___ buttons, which say, FREE THE SHAH'S POLITICAL PRISONERS. 50¢ each.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization _____
(for identification only.)

Title _____
(for identification only.)

CAIFI ENDORSERS INCLUDE:

Partial list

Ervand Abrahamian

Eric Bentley

Philip Berrigan

Peter M. Blau
Jaqueline M. Ceballos
Noam Chomsky
Karen DeCrow
David Dellinger
F.M. Esfandiary
Jules Feiffer
Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Leslie A. Fiedler
Erich Fromm
Allen Ginsberg
Francine Du Plessix Gray
Nat Hentoff
Abdeen M. Jabara
Ken Kesey
Abbas Khadjavi
Ring Lardner Jr.
Don Luce
Salvadore E. Luria
Dwight Macdonald
Kate Millett
Anais Nin
George Novack
Thomas M. Ricks
Mahmoud Sayrafiezadeh
Allen Silver
Paul M. Sweezy
Dalton Trumbo
Alexander S.Y. Volpin
Babak Zahraie
Howard Zinn

CAIFI
156 Fifth Avenue
Room 703
New York, New York 10010
(212) 691-0167

Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran

September 24, 1974

Dear Friends,

Attached is a tentative schedule of the fall CAIFI tours.

Two speakers, Bahram Atai, and Fariborz Khasha will speak on the subject of 'Repression in Iran'. The purpose of the tours is to:

- 1- Publicize the repression of artists and intellectuals in Iran and the need for informed public opinion about the crimes of the Iranian government.
- 2- Gather support for freedom of expression in Iran and the cases of Ms. Vida Hadjebi Tabrizi and Dr. Ali Shariatti.
- 3- Help establish CAIFI chapters where none exists.
- 4- Raise funds for CAIFI and obtain more prominent endorsers.

These tours are a major part of CAIFI activities and are seen as means of reaching the public. Based on our experience with Mr. Babak Zahraie's last tour in spring 1974, we believe the tours will be most effective if you:

- 1- Try to have another person speak with the CAIFI speaker.
- 2- Try to have as broad sponsorship as possible for the meeting.
- 3- Set up as many media interviews as possible.

These measures are important in drawing as many listeners to our meetings as possible and project CAIFI as a genuinely broad defense organization.

No efforts should be spared to obtain sponsorship from any group which supports freedom of expression in Iran. Organizations of international students, especially Iranian Students, are our natural allies in this fight. Where they are not too receptive to this idea, we should patiently explain the need for an effective campaign against repression in Iran, pointing out that their only commitment is to help defend the victims of the shah.

We expect to raise money from honoraria to cover the tour expenses and, also raise funds for CAIFI. Where possible, every effort must be made to obtain honoraria from schools, organizations, etc. Collections should be taken at these meetings. We hope such collections will be large enough to retrieve the expense of organizing the meeting and still provide income for CAIFI. Checks should be made out to CAIFI. Please forward two copies of articles about the tour.

Enclosed is a brochure which explains what CAIFI is. For more materials for literature tables please contact CAIFI. Also attached are introductory comments on the speakers.

Sincerely,

Mohammad B. Falsafi
Mohammad Falsafi

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Bahram Atai

Mr. Bahram Atai was secretary of the Committee to Defend Babak Zahraie. He was later ordered deported by the Seattle Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) while active in CDBZ. Zahraie and Atai both have been active in defending the political prisoners in Iran and outspoken against the Vietnam War. Both were students at the University of Washington in Seattle. INS was successfully challenged and the charges against Atai and Zahraie was later dropped. Mr. Atai is CAIFI Field Secretary and has spoken on behalf of CAIFI on numerous occasions.

Fariborz Khasha

Mr. Khasha was a student activist at the University of Washington, where he was active in defending political prisoners in Iran and actively participated in defending civil rights for foreign students in the Committee to Defend Babak Zahraie. Khasha is the Field Secretary of CAIFI. He has spoken on behalf of CAIFI on numerous occasions.