

FRENCH SECTION OF THE CENTER OF KURDISH PEN

www.pen-kurd.org

Head in France

By

Sevê Evîn Çîçek

Writer, sociologist, scientific journalist

By

Dr ALI KILIÇ

Doctor of Philosophy of Science

Paris, 15.11-2008

Fribourg Suisse 15-11-2008



TERESA TODA



MOHAMMAD SADIQ KABUDVAND

FOR FREEDOM TERESA¹ TODA AND FOR MOHAMMAD SADIQ KABUDVAND

Since three years is our concern at the situation of Kurds in Kurdistan writers Oriental here, our brother Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand and last year we urged for the liberation of writers Basques first Basque journalist Teresa TODA have been finally convicted by the regime of Zapatero in Spain and in Kurdistan by the regime Ahmednejad.

For more than three years KURDISH Section French PEN is seriously concerned about the situation of political prisoners in Iran and Kurds and by the situation and human health by Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand and Teresa TODA that we give him full access to his family, lawyers, and all care necessary medical emergency. KURDISH PEN believes that his arrest and convictions are part of a pattern of repression against journalists and activists of human rights in Iran Kurdish regions, in direct violation of Article 19 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran is and Iran a signatory. We therefore respectfully call on release immediate and unconditional, and the release of all those currently detained in violation of their right to freedom of expression and Association.

On 4 July 2007 The journalist and human rights defender Kurdish Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is held in an unknown location, which could be Section 209 of Evin prison. He was arrested on 1 July 2007 at his place of work in Tehran by members of security forces in civilian clothes. Amnesty International fears that he may be tortured or subjected to other forms of ill Salaries and think it is very probably a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and association.

¹See letter to Ms. Carla Bruni SARKOZY FREEDOM FOR TERESA TODA, www.pen-kurd.org /fransî

Immediately after his arrest, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was taken to his home in Tehran, where security forces have seized three computers, books, photographs, videos of his family as well as documents personal, before taking him to an unknown destination. Amnesty International believes that he has had no contact with his family since his interpellation. President of the Kurdish Human Rights (RMMK), whose Headquartered in Tehran,

Mohammad Sadiq is also the Kabudvand editor of Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan (The People's Message Kurdistan), a weekly published in Kurdish and Persian, which was banned June 27 2004 after only 13 issues, for "spreading separatist ideas and publishing false information ". Found guilty by a court Revolutionary Sanandaj in western Iran, of having "spread information likely to create tensions and published articles provocative "and" spreading lies in order to disturb public opinion, "Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was sentenced on August 18 2005, to a prison sentence of eighteen months, and has been banned to exercise his profession as a journalist for five years. His conviction was confirmed on appeal and his sentence increased, the journalist must serve a sentence one year in prison. In September 2006, he was summoned so that it is enforced, but he remains free pending the Supreme Court decides on the appeal he filed against his conviction.

This state of health of Iranian Kurdish journalist Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, President of the Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan, raises new concerns, while he is detained without charge in Section 209 the Evin prison in Tehran. Recently, guards told Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand that each time he would go to the toilet, it should make written request to the heads of secret service officer Section 209 of Evin Prison in order to obtain official permission. This man suffers hypertension, and a skin disease and kidney disease, and failure to use the toilet when they need risk damaging his kidneys. By imposing this restriction, the authorities seek to put pressure on the staff of the Organization of rights people of Kurdistan, so they come to the office of the Ministry of Intelligence, Mahabad and Tehran, for questioning. We think they would be arrested and that their organization would in fact closed. Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was apprehended by officials of security forces in plain clothes on 1 July 2007, the day when the ban decided against publishing his newspaper **Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan** (The Message from the people of Kurdistan) ended, according to reports.

He faces one year in prison because of the publication of articles in this weekly, but maintaining current detention seems to have no link with this element. Kabudvand Mohammad Sadiq told his family on 17 July he was accused of "activities detrimental to national security" and "propaganda against the regime "and" cooperation with opposition groups regime ". He reportedly said that he blindfolded and that he linked the fists and feet to each interrogation, he reportedly complained of conditions deplorable detention.

The lawyer Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi, was not allowed to visit him. His contacts with his family are also very limited. When we took him to see his wife at the last visit of the latter, October 28, he was blindfolded. Once in the room, the banner was removed. Founded by Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand in April 2005, the Organization human rights of Kurdistan has a hundred members. She has long been recognized and registered officially as non-governmental body, but authorities have never accepted. Ajlal Qavami board member of the organization, is imprisoned in Sanandaj in connection with another case related to his work as a journalist for the Payam-e Mardom-e

Kordestan and member of the editorial board of the weekly Bilingual Didgah (Viewpoint). He was arrested July 9 after being cited appear by the Revolutionary Court in Sanandaj. Previously, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment by the first room of this forum for organizing a demonstration in July 2005. This was intended to protest against the killing of a Kurd, Showan Qaderi, by security forces. He had appealed that ruling, but he was dismissed. However, neither he nor his lawyer was not informed before it is adopted.

The Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan has a mandate to protect fundamental rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions, to teach respect for human rights in Kurdistan, and disseminate and promote this principle, and to develop between the peoples of Iran friendly relations based on principle of equality before the law. Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was sentenced to eleven years imprisonment by the 15th of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran.

Although his lawyers have not yet received written confirmation of its conviction, it seems that it understands a sentence of ten years " actions against state security by establishing the Human Rights Organization people of Kurdistan "and one year for" propaganda against the regime ". This decision was made at a closed hearing held in the end of May 2008. Previously, three hearings were canceled because no public prosecutor did was presented.

Amnesty International believes that Mohammad Sadiq is a Kabudvand prisoner of conscience detained solely because he exercised, so Yet peaceful, his right to freedom of speech and association through its activities as a journalist and president of the Organization of rights people of Kurdistan. This right is proclaimed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Iran is a party, and the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Human Rights and fundamental freedoms universally recognized (Declaration on Defenders of Human Rights).

On behalf of 3300 members of the PEN American Center, an organization International writers dedicated to protecting freedom of expression wherever it is threatened, writes to protest against 11 years in prison given to Kurdish journalist Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand. According to our information, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, editor Leader of the banned weekly Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan (Kurdistan Message of the People), was arrested on 1 July 2007, at his place of work, Tehran. After his arrest, Mr. Kabudvand was taken to his home in Tehran, where security officers confiscated three computers, books, photographs and personal documents before taking him km east of Intelligence ministry of section 209 of Evin prison, where he said to have been mistreated. He spent the first five months of detention solitary confinement before his trial began on May 25 2008. On 22 June 2008, Mr. Kabudvand was sentenced to a closed trial to 11 years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Tehran for "action against security National "for the formation of a body of human rights in Iran to the Kurdish region. According to information received, Mr. Kabudvand suffered an attack Brain May 19 2008, and was denied access to medical care adequate. There are serious concerns for his health. This is not the first time Mr. Kabudvand was targeted by the government for its journalism. Payam-e Mardom-e Kurdistan has been banned on 27 June 2004, after only 13 questions for "dissemination of ideas separatists and publishing false news ". Mr. Kabudvand was convicted of "disseminating tribal issues and publishing articles provocative "and" spreading lies with the intention of upsetting public opinion "by a Revolutionary Court in Sanandaj in western Iran. On 18 August 2005, he received a suspended prison sentence of 18 months and only five years, prohibition of work as a journalist. His conviction was confirmed on appeal, but the prison sentence was

increased to one year's imprisonment. In September 2006, he was summoned to begin his prison but remains free pending appeal against his conviction before the Supreme Court.

As for writers and journalists of the Basque nation, they have been indicted by the regime of Zapatero, first Lécrivain Teresa TODA journalist and member of the Direction of PEN BASQUE imprisoned. We have the honor to convey with the assistance of the KDPI, Kurdistan Media to our people that Adnan Hassanpour and Hiwa Boutimar have been admitted as a member of the honor our French PEN KURD admitted TODA Teresa and all journalists of the Basque nation as member of the Honor of Section Française PEN KURD and we consider as our figures and sisters and as citizens of Kurdistan, and Kocgiri of Dersim and now the letter from Teresa Toda from the prison.

«My name is Teresa Toda. I am a journalist, and member of the Board of Basque Pen Club. I am in jail since December 1st 2007, serving a 10 year sentence. My only "crime" is having worked as Assistant Editor in Chief in the Basque newspaper EGIN, shut down by the Spanish Authorities in 1998. The Editor in Chief, Jabier Salutregi, is also jailed, with a 12 year sentence.

Along with 10 members of the Board of the paper, we were both sentenced after a 16-month long trial, in a maxi-case that involved different Basque associations working in the fields of social movements, the Basque language and independentist politics. The trial was plagued with serious irregularities, of which European law associations have full knowledge. Egin was a daily newspaper with 50.000 copies circulation at the time of its closure. It was an independent and Basque independentist daily, with an open view on home and foreign affairs, and especially dedicated to labour and social issues. It aimed at being the voice of those who rarely find a voice in mainstream media. Its closure, due to purely political reasons, represents a severe blow against freedom of speech and of the press in the Basque country, a blow which the Spanish government repeated in 2003 by closing down the only all- Basque paper Egunkaria. Freedom of the press is a fundamental human and democratic right. It has been seriously wounded in the Basque Country, and repairing the damage done is a task for all those who believe in freedom of speech and in the value of the widest range of opinions, and information for journalists, writers, and the free peoples. On behalf of Jabier Salutregi and myself, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to International Pen Club, and I appeal to you all to keep up your work in defense of freedom of speech and of the press all over the world»

We writers and intellectuals of Dersim, Kocgiri and Kurdistan officials of the French branch of the PEN Center KURDISH in France and Switzerland we believe that The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the Assembly UN General said that freedom of expression includes "freedom of seek, receive and impart information

and ideas of any kind without regard of frontiers "². But unlike the UN Charter to the foundations of International law with international conventions, State of the Republic of Spain just stop many fellow Basque, journalists, first Teresa Toda journalist, writer Basque member of the PEN Center BASQUE (euskalPENkliba) on 30 November 2007 to 16 hours in Urnieta, the municipality or she lived near Donostia (St Sebastian). Teresa Toda with other detainees is transferred to various jails around Madrid, Dec. 20 all other prisoners are brought before the Special Court of Madrid (Audiencia Nacional). At the hearing Teresa has denied the accusation and prisoners begin singing Eusko Gudariak "³ others also all sing and all are removed. A weeks after the State of Spain began to disperse prisoners in other Prisons in Spain. Teresa Toda is currently in the house arrest of Topas (Salamanca), which has a distance of 460 kilometers from his house. Other prisoners policies are transferred in Almeria, southern Spain, more than 1000 kilometers are far from their families.

We believe that the regime of the Shah regime of the mullahs, the Islamic Persian state has committed crimes of genocide and war crimes against the Kurdish nation and destroy our Republic of Mahabad, has hanged the leaders of our Republic of Mahabad Ghazi Mohammad, was killed KDPI leaders, Dr Ghassemloum Cherefqandi, our brother Qadiri with tens of thousands of martyrs, we protest and condemn l4opinion before world public;

FOR FREEDOM TERESA⁴ TODA AND FOR MOHAMMAD SADIQ KABUDVAND

Dr Ali KILIC Paris on 15 11-2008

Sevê Evîn Çîçek-Friborg Switzerland

² The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 4

³ The Anthem of the Basque fighter

⁴ See letter to Ms. Carla Bruni SARKOZY FREEDOM FOR TERESA TODA, [www.pen-kurd.org /fransî](http://www.pen-kurd.org/fransî)