

Bahman  
Ahmadi Amou'i

**IRAN**

**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



**FREE THE  
PRISONERS OF  
CONSCIENCE**

## Bahman Ahmadi-Amou'i



Bahman Ahmadi Amou'i, 43, an editor at the business daily paper *Sarmayeh*, which was closed by the authorities on 2 November 2009, was sentenced to seven years and four months' imprisonment and 32 lashes on 4 January 2010 by a Revolutionary Court in Tehran. The sentence includes five years for "colluding with intent to harm national security;" one year for "propaganda against the system;" one year and 32 lashes for "disrupting public security" and four months for "insulting the president." This sentence was later reduced to five years on appeal. Bahman Ahmadi-Amou'i is currently serving this sentence in Evin Prison, Tehran.

Bahman Ahmadi Amou'i, husband of journalist Jila Baniyaghoob (or Zhila Bani Ya'qoub) , was arrested with her husband and later released on 19 August 2009, has been held at Evin Prison in Tehran. After 65 days of solitary confinement following his 20 June 2009 arrest, Bahman Ahmadi Amou'i was moved in late August 2009 to a cell in Section 209 of the prison, measuring 3.5 m<sup>2</sup> which he shared with two other detainees. He was free on a "temporary" release for 72 days and returned to prison in late May 2010. He is now being held in Section 350 of Evin Prison where he has been denied in person visits with his family. His wife Jila Baniyaghoob said on 10 August 2011 "I can only see my husband once a week for 20 minutes through a phone booth, behind a glass wall". Bahman Admadi Amou'i's telephone privileges have also been suspended for nearly a year without any official or reasonable explanation.

Bahman Ahmad Amou'i was a regular contributor to on the economy for newspapers such as *Jame'eh*, *Toos*, *Sobh-e Emrooz*, *Norooz*, *Sharg and Vaghaye Ettefaghieh* over the past 20 years. He has two published books Political Economy of the Islamic Republic and How the Islamic Republic's Men Became Technocrats.

In June 2011 Bahman Ahmadi Amou'i was among 12 prisoners at Evin Prison who went on a hunger strike to protest against the deaths of Haleh Sahabi and Hoda Saber. Haleh Sahabi died at the funeral of her father on 2 June 2011 while on temporary release. Eyewitnesses said she died after she was hit by a member of the security forces. Hoda Saber, a prisoner of conscience linked to the Nationalist Religious Alliance, died in custody on 12 June 2011 following a hunger strike launched in protest at Haleh Sahabi's death. According to letter from over 60 of his fellow prisoners, he was beaten and denied adequate medical treatment before his death. The hunger strike ended on 26 June 2011.