

Iran denies arrested journalist is on hunger strike

Iran Tuesday rejected reports that the Iranian-American journalist who was convicted of spying for the US was on a hunger strike in prison, IRNA reported.

'She is not on hunger strike and her health condition is good,' judiciary spokesman Alireza Jamshidi said, refuting reports on Roxana Saberi's hunger strike.

The 31-year-old reporter was sentenced last week to eight years in prison on charges of spying for the US government. She is appealing her conviction.

Jamshidi also told reporters that Saberi's father had a meeting with her this week and 'gave her birthday gift'.

On Monday, Tehran's revolutionary court judge Hassan Hadad categorically denied that Saberi was on a hunger strike.

'There is no hunger strike and those who raised the issue just want to misuse the case for propaganda purposes,' Hadad said.

The reporter was originally charged for buying alcohol and working without a valid press card. But the judiciary later charged her with espionage.

-- Indo-Asian News Service

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