

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/05/95
Distr: UA/SC

UA 86/95

Fear of torture / Legal concern

7 April 1995

IRAN

Hundreds arrested following demonstrations

Demonstrations in Islamshahr, a suburb of Tehran, on 4 April 1995, during which up to 10 people may have been shot dead by members of the Revolutionary Guards, have been followed by the arrest of hundreds of people. Relatives have reportedly been denied access to the detainees and have been told that they have been taken to an undisclosed prison, where Amnesty International fears they are at risk of torture and ill-treatment. The organization also fears that the detainees will not receive fair trials in accordance with international human rights standards, and that some may face the death penalty.

The demonstrations of 4 April reportedly started when about 200 youths marched from a nearby shanty town, Akbar Abad, to Islamshahr to protest at recent bus fare increases and to demand better fresh water supplies. The demonstration allegedly turned into a wider protest against economic hardships, including the doubling of fuel prices in March. Reports indicate that protestors were fired upon by members of the Revolutionary Guards, and that police helicopters fired tear gas at demonstrators.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In October 1994 it was reported on Iranian radio that the *Majlis* (parliament) had passed a law permitting the use of firearms in order to "control illegal demonstrations and to suppress revolts, riots and unrest which cannot be controlled without the use of firearms".

Amnesty International's long-standing concerns regarding trial procedures and torture in the Islamic Republic of Iran continue. The organization is particularly concerned about trials before Islamic Revolutionary Courts where trials fall far short of internationally recognized standards for fair trial, where trial hearings are usually held *in camera*, inside prisons; proceedings are summary, hearings often lasting only for a few minutes, with defendants having no access to legal counsel and no right of appeal. No substantive steps have been taken to introduce safeguards for detainees and fears continue that those arrested are at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- seeking assurances that demonstrators arrested in Islamshahr on 4 April 1995 are being humanely treated in accordance with international human rights standards, and are being granted access to lawyers and relatives;
- calling for the whereabouts of all those detained to be made known to their families, and calling for any detainee who is being held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs to be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR;
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Ayatollah
Seyed Ali Khamenei
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Head of the Judiciary
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency
Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
Dr Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 May 1995.