

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 248/90 (MDE 13/10/90 of 15 June 1990 and follow-ups MDE 13/10/90, 27 June 1990, MDE 13/12/90, 13 July 1990, MDE 13/02/91, 18 January 1991 and MDE 13/07/91, 29 April 1991) - Prisoners of conscience and Fear of Torture, and Unfair Trial (new concern)

IRAN: Ali Ardalan
Mohammad Tavassoli Hojati
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Amnesty International believes that the above nine prisoners, all of whom are prisoners of conscience, may now have been brought to trial. They are among a group of more than 20 arrested in June 1990 for signing an open letter to President Rafsanjani, or for their peaceful activities in the Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation, dissolved on 14 June 1990. A number of them are elderly and in poor health. According to reports received by Amnesty International, the nine prisoners mentioned above were brought to trial on 27 May 1991. No information is available regarding the proceedings, which are believed to have been held in camera, or the outcome of the trial.

In general, political trials in Iran fall far short of international standards for fair trial. Defendants have no access to legal counsel, and proceedings may last only a matter of minutes. Reports indicate that the nine are no longer held in isolation, and are allowed out of their cells for two periods daily. The other members of this group who were released appear not to have been tried.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the continuing imprisonment of these prisoners and urging their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience;
- seeking clarification of reports that they have been brought to trial, including information as to whether they had access to lawyers for their defence, and the precise charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
 Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
[Salutation: Your Excellency]
 The Presidency
 Palestine Avenue
 Azerbaijan Intersection
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
[Salutation: Your Excellency]
 Head of the Judiciary
 Ministry of Justice
 Park-e Shahr
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for attention Head of the Judiciary)

Hojatoleslam Ali Fallahian
[Salutation: Dear Minister]
 Minister of Information
 Ministry of Information
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 EXT IR, 212600 EXT IR or 214242 EXT IR
(please forward to the Minister of Information)

COPIES TO:

H E Ali Akbar Velayati
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Sheikh Abdolmajid Avenue
 Kooshk-e Mesri
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 September 1991.