

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/19/96

10 June 1996

Further information on UA 138/95 (MDE 13/05/96, 15 June 1995) and follow-up (MDE 13/05/96, 2 February 1996) - Death penalty

IRAN Ahmed Bakhtari, aged 41, agricultural engineer

Amnesty International is dismayed at reports that Ahmed Bakhtari may be at risk of imminent execution. Although his death sentence had been confirmed by the Supreme Court, his case was referred to the Pardon Committee. In response to appeals from the Urgent Action Network after the previous update (MDE 13/05/96), the authorities stated the following about the case:

"... since Mr Bakhtari appealed for clemency, the case has been sent to the Pardon Committee. Thus, the case is being dealt with in accordance with the legal procedures, and it does not mean that a retrial is being held."

According to information received by the organization, Ahmed Bakhtari was visited in prison by an officer from the Ministry of Justice, who informed him that the Pardon Committee had decided that the death sentence should be carried out.

Ahmed Bakhtari, an agricultural engineer, was reportedly arrested on 16 February 1992 and sentenced to death by an Islamic Revolutionary Court on 17 January 1993, after conviction of charges said to include activities for an illegal opposition group, sedition, and armed robbery. The trial was reportedly unfair as he was said not to have had access to a lawyer. The sentence was confirmed after appeal on 20 October 1993, but was apparently commuted to life imprisonment in 1994. He was retried, apparently on the same charges, in 1994, and again sentenced to death. In this trial, he was defended by a court-appointed lawyer. This second death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French or in your own language:

- urging that Ahmed Bakhtari not be executed;
- urging that the decision not to commute the death sentence against Ahmed Bakhtari be reconsidered and that clemency be granted;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.

APPEALS TO:

1) Leader of the Islamic Republic
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamanei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

4) Minister of Information
His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian
Ministry of Information
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani
Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee
Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
PO Box 13165-137, 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 6 August 1996.