

EXTRA 78/02

Imminent

IRANChini Maqsoud (m), Factory Manager

One man, name unknown

A group of artists from the Republic of Azerbaijan (names unknown)

Chini Maqsoud and an unnamed man may be at risk of imminent flogging for their involvement in a party deemed by judicial authorities to be "depraved". Entertainers at the party, which was held on 21 September in Mashhad, northeastern Iran, were also arrested shortly afterwards.

Chini Maqsoud, a factory manager was reportedly arrested for organizing an annual office party in celebration of a religious festival. He was sentenced to 74 lashes and dismissed from his post for four years by a court in Mashhad. A singer, who performed at the party, was also sentenced to 74 lashes and banned from singing for two years.

According to a report by the Baku daily Yeni M \ddot{u} savat (The New Equality), a group of artists from the Republic of Azerbaijan was arrested shortly after 21 September for performing at the party. They were detained and barred from leaving the country until further investigation. Their current status is unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months, scores of men and women have been arrested after attending and dancing at "depraved" parties, including 88 people at two separate events in Tehran at the beginning of October. The 88, allegedly aged between 18 and 21, were reportedly sentenced to unspecified prison terms, fines and flogging.

In 2002, Amnesty International has recorded at least 39 cases of flogging, many of them in public. The true figure may be significantly higher. In 1997 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights stated that "corporal punishment [such as flogging] can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, or even to torture".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French, Persian or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Chini Maqsoud and an unnamed man, may be imminently flogged;
- requesting details of the charges against the men, and clarification as to whether they were tried according to internationally accepted standards for a fair trial;
- calling for the artists from the Republic of Azerbaijan to be given access to their diplomatic representatives; for them to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately released;
- urging all flogging sentences in Iran to be restricted in line with its obligations under Article 7 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party. Article 7 of the ICCPR states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
- urging the Foreign Ministry to issue an immediate and open invitation to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture to carry out a full review of court procedures and sentencing where flogging is involved;
- urging the judicial authorities to implement a moratorium on the use of flogging, which is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, with a view to its eventual abolition;

APPEALS TO:Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran**Email: webmaster@wilayah.org ("For the attention of the office of His
Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom")****Salutation: Your Excellency**President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran**E-mail: khatami@president.ir (please re-send if your message is returned)****Salutation: Your Excellency**Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran,

Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran**Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org ("For the attention of the office of His
Excellency, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi")****Salutation: Your Excellency**

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue, Tehran,

Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tehran, Iran**Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 ("Care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)****Salutation: Your Excellency**Parliamentary Committee

Chairperson, Article 90 Commission (Komisyon-e Asl-e Navad)

Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami, Imam Khomeini Avenue,

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Majles, Tehran, Iran**Faxes: + 98 21 646 1746 (It may be difficult to get through, but please be
patient)****Salutation: Dear Sir**

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.