

PUBLIC

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UA 236//05 Death Penalty/Fear of Imminent Execution

IRAN Mehdi Gharib Khanian Ghamroudi (m), aged about 22

Mehdi Gharib Khanian Ghamroudi is reportedly scheduled to be executed in the city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran on or around 18 September. His death sentence has apparently been upheld by the Supreme Court in the capital, Tehran. The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, has the power to grant clemency at this stage.

Mehdi Gharib Khanian Ghamroudi was reportedly arrested by the security forces in December 2004. The precise reasons for his arrest are not known. It is believed that he was not granted access to legal representation, and was not able to appeal against his sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party. Article 6 of the ICCPR states that in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes. Article 14 also provides for the right to legal assistance and to review of a sentence by a higher tribunal.

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

- stating that Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to stop the execution of Mehdi Gharib Khanian Ghamroudi, and to commute his death sentence;
- asking for details of his trial, including whether he had access to legal representation and any appeals he lodged against his conviction.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei')

Email: info@wilayah.org

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (mark 'Please forward to HE Ayatollah Shahroudi')

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 24 October 2005.