

URGENT ACTION

IRANIAN JUVENILE FACES EXECUTION ON 16 JULY

The execution of 20-year-old Mohammad Reza Haddadi has been scheduled in the city of Shiraz, southern Iran, on 16 July. He has been sentenced to death for a crime he allegedly committed while under the age of 18. This is the third time his execution has been scheduled.

On 27 May, the Head of the Judiciary had halted the execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi, which was scheduled to take place that day in Adelabad prison in Shiraz. The Head of the Judiciary had ordered Branch 17 of the Supreme Court to conduct a review of the case. However, in an interview with the Iranian daily newspaper *Sarmayeh*, Mohammad Reza Haddadi's brother said that since the review was ordered, although no trial sessions have been held, the execution was nevertheless scheduled for 16 July.

Mohammad Reza Haddadi was sentenced to death in 2004 for a murder he allegedly committed when he was 15. He confessed to the murder, but retracted the confession during his trial, saying he had claimed responsibility for the killing only because his two co-defendants had offered to give his family money if he did so. During the trial he said that he had not taken part in the murder. His co-defendants later supported Mohammad Reza Haddadi's claims of innocence, and withdrew their testimony that had implicated him. They were both over 18 at the time of the crime and received prison sentences. Mohammad Reza Haddadi's death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court in July 2005. He was first scheduled for execution in October 2008, but it was stayed on the order of the Head of the Judiciary.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Persian, Arabic, English, French or your own language:

- calling on the Iranian authorities to halt the execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi immediately, and commute his death sentence;
- reminding the authorities that Iran is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which prohibit the use of the death penalty against people convicted of crimes committed when they were under 18.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 JULY 2009 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, The
Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir
via website:
<http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter> (English)
<http://www.leader.ir/langs/fa/index.php?p=letter> (Persian)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
c/o Director, Judiciary Public Relations
and Information Office
Ardehsir Sadiq
Judiciary Public Relations and
Information Office
No. 57, Pasteur St.,
corner of Khosh Zaban Avenue
Tehran, Iran
Email: info@dadiran.ir (In the subject
line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
Judiciary spokesperson
Alireza Jamshidi
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh /
Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-
e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737, Iran
Email: info@a-jamshidi.ir
Salutation: Dear Sir

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

This is the fifth update of UA: 71/08 (MDE 13/049/2008)
Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/ai_search?keywords=UA+71%2F08&op=Search&form_id=search_theme_form&form_token=c3b2158862cb6ba2486d118e4682247f

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has no further news on the separate case of Naser Qasemi, who was also sentenced to death for a crime committed when he was 15.

Since 1990 Iran has executed at least 44 people convicted of crimes that they allegedly committed when they were under 18. Eight of these executions were in 2008 and three in 2009.

The execution of juvenile offenders is prohibited under international law, as stated in Article 6(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to which Iran is a state party, and so has undertaken not to execute anyone for crimes committed when they were under 18.

In Iran a person convicted of murder has no right to seek pardon or commutation from the state, in violation of Article 6(4) of the ICCPR. The family of a murder victim have the right either to insist on execution, or to pardon the killer and receive financial compensation (diyeh).

For more information about executions of juveniles in Iran, please see Iran: The last executioner of children (Index: MDE 13/059/2007), June 2007, (<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde130592007>).

Further information on UA: 71/08 Index: MDE 13/070/2009 Issue Date: 10 July 2009

