

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 330/02 (MDE 13/022/2002, 7 November 2002) Threat of execution/medical concern

IRAN **Dr. Seyyed Hashem Aghajari (m), aged 45, writer and academic**

According to the London based *Kahyan* newspaper, the death sentence against Dr. Seyyed Hashem Aghajari has reportedly been repealed. The Judiciary however has neither confirmed nor denied this and it appears that the case has been referred to the Qom branch of the Supreme Court.

Dr. Seyyed Hashem Aghajari, a prisoner of conscience and History professor was arrested on 8 August 2001, following a speech he gave on 19 June in Hamedan, western Iran. He faced vaguely worded accusations consisting of defamation and insult charges, notably of religious figures and leaders.

We are seeking more information about Dr Seyyed Hashem Aghajari and will continue to monitor his case.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action Network at present. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.