

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 72/00

Imminent

IRANHamid Heydari, Iranian national

Hamid Heydari has reportedly been sentenced to flogging followed by execution for murder. Press reports indicate that the sentence is scheduled to be carried out during the week of 4-10 September.

Hamid Heydari and several accomplices had attempted to kidnap a small boy in the city of Rey, south of Tehran, in August. Members of the voluntary militia, *Basij*, intervened and one of them, Timor Hassan-Zadeh, was killed. Hamid Heydari was sentenced to flogging and death for his murder. Some of Hamid Heydari's accomplices have also been sentenced to flogging.

Amnesty International recognises the seriousness of the crime for which Hamid Heydari has been convicted, and acknowledges the right and responsibility of all governments to bring to justice those guilty of a recognizably criminal offence.

However, the organization is fundamentally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life. Amnesty International also considers flogging to be cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment amounting to torture. Such treatment contravenes Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, which says that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

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

- urging the authorities to commute the death sentence imposed on Hamid Heydari and to administer a more humane form of punishment, and, whilst recognising the serious nature of the charge of murder, reiterating your unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging the authorities not to carry out the sentences of flogging imposed on Hamid Heydari and his accomplices in violation of Article 7 of the ICCPR;
- requesting details of any trial proceedings against Hamid Heydari and others sentenced with him, and asking the authorities to ensure that he has been given the right to appeal his sentence in line with Article 6 of the ICCPR to which Iran is a state party, and which states "Anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence. Amnesty, pardon or commutation of the sentence of death may be granted in all cases".

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

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
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of Judiciary

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

Telegrams: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
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

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far

Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission

PO Box 13165-137

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

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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 13 October.