

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/04/98

EXTRA 15/98

Fear of imminent execution/Legal concern 6 February 1998

IRAN Mohammad Ali Ataei, aged 27, tailor

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Amnesty International is concerned that Mohammad Ali Ataei may be at risk of imminent execution as he may not be accorded the right to appeal against a reported death sentence imposed by a military court on 26 or 27 January 1998.

He was reportedly convicted after a one-day trial on vaguely worded charges, which were said to have included robbery and "being against the people". He is currently reported to be held in a prison in Rasht.

Mohammad Ali Ataei was reportedly arrested in the city of Rasht in April 1997 and interrogated about the political activities of his two brothers. One of his brothers reportedly died the same month in suspicious circumstances; the other brother lives abroad. Although he is not said to be politically active himself he was reportedly asked to sign a confession of his political activities against the government. When he refused to do this he was allegedly tortured and severely beaten in order to force him to sign.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International's long-standing concerns regarding trial procedures and torture in the Islamic Republic of Iran continue. The organization is particularly concerned about trials before special courts, including military courts where trials fall far short of internationally recognized standards for fair trial and where trial hearings are usually held *in camera*; proceedings are summary, hearings often lasting only a few minutes, with defendants rarely having access to legal counsel and no right of appeal.

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

- expressing concern that Mohammad Ali Ataei may be at risk of imminent execution and urging that the reported death sentence imposed on him by a military court be commuted;
- seeking detailed information about the procedures of his trial and the precise charges of which he is convicted;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### APPEALS TO:

**Please note: fax tones can be very difficult to obtain**

##### 1) 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**

**Faxes: + 98 21 650203 (via Interior Ministry, ask for fax to be forwarded)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

##### 2) President

His Excellency

Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran**  
**Faxes: + 98 21 674790 (via Foreign Affairs, ask for fax to be forwarded)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) Head of the Judiciary  
His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of Information  
His Excellency Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi  
Ministry of Information  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

5) Minister of the Interior  
His Excellency Abdollah Nouri  
Ministry of the Interior  
Dr Fatemi Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran**  
**Faxes: + 98 21 899547 / 650203**  
**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  
**Faxes: + 98 21 674790**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative  
Assembly's Human Rights Committee  
Imam Khomeini 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  
**Faxes: + 98 21 204 0541**

and to diplomatic representatives of IRAN accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**