

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/03/96

23 January 1996

Further information on UA 266/95 (MDE 13/21/95, 22 January 1996) - Fear of torture / Legal concern

IRANHojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi al-Dhakeri, aged 41  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin 'Abdolrahman al-Ha'eri, aged 32  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed 'Abdolrasul al-Musawi, aged 40  
Hojjatoleslam Taleb al-Salehi, aged 24  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Fazel Mohammad al-Saffar, aged 23  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad 'Ali Ma'ash, aged 24  
Sighatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian, aged 30  
Mohammad al-Ghaffari, aged 42  
Hadi al-Akhound al-Dhakeri, aged 29  
Iyad Fujian, aged 25  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi, aged 29  
and 7 others

new names: Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Ja'far Ghani al-Ha'eri  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Saleh Hedayati  
Hojjatoleslam Sayed Abbas Musawi  
Ahmad Akhound  
Jalal Akhound

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The whereabouts of at least 23 followers of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, detained at various times since September 1995, remain unknown. Fears for their safety in incommunicado detention have been heightened by unconfirmed reports that Sayed Morteza Shirazi, the son of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, and Mohammad al-Ghaffari have been tortured while in custody. The reports indicate that Muhammad al-Ghaffari was hospitalised for internal bleeding resulting from his alleged torture.

In addition to the 18 men referred to in UA 266/95, five other followers of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi have reportedly been arrested. Sheikh Ja'far Ghani al-Ha'eri was arrested from his home on 30 September and is said to have remained in incommunicado detention ever since. Sheikh Muhammad Saleh Hedayati was arrested in Qom on 17 October. Sayed Abbas Musawi, who works in the office of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, was reportedly arrested from his home in Qom on 6 December. Ahmad and Jalal Akhound were arrested in Tehran in early January 1996.

Amnesty International remains concerned that the detainees may be held solely on account of their association with Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, a senior religious figure who has opposed certain policies of the Iranian Government. As such they would be prisoners of conscience.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters in English, French or your own language or in your own language:**

- requesting information about the current whereabouts of these 23 men and anyone else who may be detained because of their connection with Grand Ayatollah Shirazi;
- urging that their families be informed immediately of their whereabouts and that they be granted access to lawyers and doctors of their choice and to a judicial review of their detention;
- seeking information about their legal status, and calling for their release if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences;

- expressing concern at reports that Sayed Morteza Shirazi and Mohammad al-Ghaffari have been tortured and calling for a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the torture allegations;
- urging that all detainees are treated humanely and urging that their physical safety be protected.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam  
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran**  
**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, Justice Ministry, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of the Interior  
His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi  
Ministry of the Interior  
Dr Fatemi Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
His Excellency Dr Ali Akbar Velayati  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani  
Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee  
Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission  
PO Box 13165-137, Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran

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 15 March 1996.