

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/042/2004

14 October 2004

Further Information on UA 281/04 (MDE 13/040/2004, 07 October 2004) - Imminent execution

IRAN

Fatemeh Haghghat-Pajouh (f), aged 33

Fatemeh Haghghat-Pajouh was granted a stay of execution on 12 October, the night before she was scheduled to be hanged, according to a 13 October report by the Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA). When a stay of execution is ordered, the case is usually sent back to the sentencing court for review.

The Head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Shahroudi, apparently ordered the stay of execution after reading a letter written to him by Fatemeh Haghghat-Pajouh's daughter, entitled "Don't render my hopes hopeless", in which she appealed for clemency for her mother

She had been sentenced to death for the murder of her husband, whom she alleged was a drug addict who had tried to rape her daughter from a previous marriage, who was 15 years old at the time. Apparently he had previously told her that he had lost the girl in a gambling match. She is believed to have been in custody since approximately June 2001.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Persian, English, French or your own language:

- welcoming the decision by His Excellency Ayatollah Shahroudi to grant Fatemeh Haghghat-Pajouh a stay of execution;
- asking whether a review of her case will be carried out, and urging that her death sentence be commuted;
- stating that Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but strongly opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

APPEALS TO:

Head of the Judiciary

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

Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (mark 'Please forward to HE Ayatollah Shahroudi')

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

Email: info@wilayah.org OR webmaster@wilayah.org (on the subject line write: For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

E-mail: khatami@president.ir (please resend your message if it does not get through the first time)

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 25 November 2004.