

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 13/014/2002**

**EXTRA 74/02**

**Fear of imminent execution 24 September 2002**

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC  
OF IRAN**

**Hashem or Hassan  
Rahim Rahmani  
At least four other individuals**

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Amnesty International fears that Hashem or Hassan, Rahim Rahmani and at least four others are at risk of imminent execution.

According to the 19 September edition of the daily *Tos'eh* (Development) newspaper, Rahim Rahmani was sentenced to death around September 2000 in connection with the murder of a security official at the Boustan Trade Centre. He reportedly later confessed to having committed the crime. The same newspaper reported that Hassan was convicted in connection with the murder of a security guard at Jamshidiya Park. On the same day, however, the newspaper *E'temad* (Trust) reported that Hashem, an individual involved in the same incident, was sentenced to death for this crime. It is unclear whether it is Hassan or Hashem who may face execution. The death sentences have reportedly been upheld by the Supreme Court and are expected to be carried out imminently.

A separate report on 18 September, by Agence France Presse (AFP), stated that a total of six individuals faced death by hanging in the "coming days". No names were provided in this report.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In 2002, Amnesty International has recorded a total of at least 60 executions in Iran; in 2001 the organization recorded at least 139 executions, although the true figure may be considerably higher.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences. However, the organization unconditionally opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party.

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

- urging that the death sentences imposed on Hashem or Hassan, Rahim Rahmani and the other unnamed individuals, be halted immediately, possibly by means of commutation of their sentences by the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in line with Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party;
- expressing your sympathy for the victims of violent crime and recognizing the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but stating your unconditional opposition to the death penalty irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed, as the ultimate violation of the right to life;
- reminding the Iranian authorities of their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
- asking whether the men were given every opportunity to defend themselves, including the right to appeal, in keeping with Article 6(4) of the ICCPR: "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

**Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880/ + 98 251 774 2228 (ask for faxes to be forwarded to Ayatollah Khamenei)**

**Email: [webmaster@wilayah.org](mailto:webmaster@wilayah.org); (on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Uzma Khamenei, Qom)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

President of Iran

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

**Telegram: President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Fax: + 98 21 649 5880**

**Email: [khatami@president.ir](mailto:khatami@president.ir)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice

Park-e Shahr

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Fax: + 98 21 537 8827 (number may be unreliable)**

**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

**Telegram: Foreign Affairs Minister, Tehran, Iran**

**Fax: + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights**

**Department, Foreign Ministry)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Influential religious leader

Ayatollah al-Uzma Makarem Shirazi

Amir al-Mom'enin School, Shohada Street, Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax: + 98 251 774 3114**

**Email: [makarem@makaremshirazi.org](mailto:makarem@makaremshirazi.org)**

**Salutation: Ayatollah al-Uzma Makarem Shiraz**

***(If sending copies to this senior religious leader, please identify yourself and state clearly that it is a copy of an appeal, noting to whom you have sent the original appeal).***

and to diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 November 2002.