



**amnesty  
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
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United Kingdom

**URGENT  
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of execution

25 November 1988

IRAN: Ali Akbar SHALGOOLNEY  
Adel TALEBI

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Amnesty International has learned that two members of a banned leftist opposition group, Ali Akbar Shalgoolney and Adel Talebi, are feared to be in imminent danger of execution in Iran. Both are serving life sentences in Evin Prison, Tehran, and are alleged to have been retried and sentenced to death.

In recent months Amnesty International has received numerous reports of executions of political prisoners in Iran, including cases where those already sentenced to terms of imprisonment had their sentences changed to death. The organization believes that hundreds of political executions may have taken place since July 1988, most of them in secret. In the case of Ali Akbar Shalgoolney and Adel Talebi, fears that execution may be imminent are increased by the reported execution of another prisoner in the same group, Ja'afar Riahi.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- urging that any death sentence passed on Ali Akbar Shalgoolney or Adel Talebi be commuted, and pointing out that it is in contravention of Article 14(7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has ratified, for anyone "to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted";

- expressing deep regret at the reports that large numbers of executions are continuing to take place in Iran and urging the immediate commutation of all outstanding death sentences.

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**Telephone 01-833 1771    Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1    Telex: 28502**

**Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.**

**APPEALS TO:**

H.E. Ayatollah Abdolkarim  
Musavi Ardebili  
Chief Justice and President of  
the Supreme Judicial Council  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams:** Chief Justice,  
Tehran, Iran

**Telexes:** 214231 miti ir;  
213113 prim ir;  
attention of Chief Justice.

H.E. Dr Hassan Ebrahim Habibi  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams:** Justice Minister,  
Tehran, Iran

**Telexes:** 214231 miti ir;  
213113 prim ir;  
attention of Justice Minister.

**Copies to** diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Note: Some appeals should be sent in a personal or professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 December 1988.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.