

PUBLIC

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Flogging

15 January 1999

**IRANAmir Farshad Ebrahimi
Kiyanoush Mozaffari
Babak Shahrestani**

An Iranian court has sentenced the three men named above to flogging and imprisonment in connection with an assault in August 1998 on 'Ataollah Mohajerani, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and 'Abdollah Nuri, the Vice-President of Iran. Amir Farshad Ebrahimi was reportedly sentenced to 40 lashes and 18 months' imprisonment, while Kiyanoush Mozaffari and Babak Shahrestani were each sentenced to 20 lashes and six months' imprisonment.

Amnesty International unconditionally opposes flogging in all cases as a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

'Ataollah Mohajerani and 'Abdollah Nuri are senior members of the cabinet of Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Reports suggest that the three men due to be flogged are connected to unofficial groups who have frequently attacked supporters of President Khatami.

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

- urging the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to commute the sentences of flogging imposed against Amir Farshad Ebrahimi, Kiyanoush Mozaffari and Babak Shahrestani, on the basis that flogging constitutes a form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- reminding the government of Iran of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

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

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
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

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

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
PO Box 13165-137
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
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and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your own country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 February 1999.

***"No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading
treatment or punishment"***

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>