

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/03/97

9 January 1997

Further information (6) on UA 266/95 (MDE 13/37/96, 26/11/96) and follow-ups MDE 13/03/96, 22 March; MDE 13/20/96, 26 June; MDE 13/32/96, 20 August; MDE 13/37/96, 21 November) - Fear of Torture /Legal Concern /Fear of death penalty

IRAN Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Fazel Mohammad al-Saffar - RELEASED  
Hojjatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian  
Mohammad Ghaffari - RELEASED  
Hadi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi - RELEASED TEMPORARILY  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Saleh Hedayati  
Hojjatoleslam Sayed Mehdi Shirazi (brother of Sayed Morteza) - RELEASED  
TEMPORARILY  
and 7 others

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Amnesty International has learned that Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Fazel Mohammad al-Saffar was released from detention on 4 January 1997, and that Mohammad Ghaffari was released on 30 October 1996.

According to reports, Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi was released temporarily on 1 January 1997 and his brother, Sayed Mehdi, was released temporarily on 28 December 1996. It is not known whether any date has been set for their return to detention. Sayed Mehdi Shirazi is said to be ill, with bladder damage, the failure of one kidney, memory loss and permanent vertigo. Amnesty International fears that both may be at risk of being taken back into detention, particularly as Sayed Morteza Shirazi was previously released for less than 48 hours.

There is still no information as to the fate of seven students arrested on 12 November 1995. Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi Dhakeri, Hojjatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian, Hadi Dhakeri and Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Saleh Hedayati are still held in detention. Their legal status remains unclear. Amnesty International is concerned that those detained may be held solely on account of their relationship to, or their peaceful support for, Grand Ayatollah Shirazi. If so, they would be prisoners of conscience, and should be released immediately and unconditionally. In any event, they should be allowed regular access to family members and to lawyers of their choice. In addition, the organization is concerned that these men, and others who have since been released, have been tortured, and that if they are tried and convicted some could face the death penalty.

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

- welcoming the release of Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Fazel Mohammad al-Saffar and Mohammad Ghaffari;
- seeking clarification of the legal situation of those who have been temporarily released;
- seeking details of the legal status of all those who remain in detention including full details of all the charges and evidence against them and details of any trial proceedings, judgements and sentences;
- urging that those remaining in detention be released if not promptly and fairly tried on recognizably criminal charges; any prisoners of conscience should be released immediately and unconditionally.

**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 the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran**  
**Fax: +98 21 646 5242**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of Information

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian  
 Ministry of Information  
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Information 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  
**Fax: +98 21 67 4790**  
**Telex: 212450 / 214242**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee

Iman Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Committee,

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 20 February 1997.