

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 248/90 (MDE 13/10/90, 15 June 1990) and follow-ups MDE 13/10/90, (27 June 1990), MDE 13/1/90, (13 July 1990), MDE 13/02/91, (18 January 1991), MDE 13/07/91, (29 April 1991), MDE 13/08/91, (23 July 1991), MDE 13/09/91, (28 August 1991) and MDE 13/10/91, (20 September 1991) - Health concern

IRAN: Ali Ardalan

Dr Habibollah Davaran

Abdolali Bazargan

Khosrow Mansourian

~~Akbar Zarinchbaf~~

Mohammad Tavassoli Hojati

Hashem Sabbaghian

Nezameddin Movahed

Abol Fazl Mir Shams Shahshahani

Amnesty international has learned that following Ali Ardalan's hospitalization in September 1991, his three-year prison sentence has been suspended and he is believed to be recuperating at home. It is not clear if, once he is fully recovered, he will be taken back into prison to serve the rest of his sentence.

Amnesty International is concerned for Nezameddin Movahed, a 74-year-old former civil servant, who has been in hospital since November 1991 with a number of pathological conditions but has been told that he must shortly return to prison.

The above nine prisoners of conscience were reported to have appealed to the High Court against their sentences at the end of 1991, but their appeals were rejected and in some cases new charges were apparently added. All proceedings took place in their absence and again they had no access to lawyers.

The sentences of between 10 and 30 lashes, imposed on all nine above in addition to prison terms, are believed not to have been carried out yet. Amnesty International considers flogging as a judicial punishment which constitutes torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- welcoming the news that Ali Ardalan's sentence has been suspended and urging that he not be returned to prison to serve the rest of his sentence;
- urging the immediate and unconditional release of the other eight people mentioned above as prisoners of conscience;

- expressing concern at the reported rejection of their appeals and seeking more clarification on the proceedings;
- expressing concern at the state of Nezameddin Movahed's health;
- urging that the eight prisoners of conscience be given prompt and regular access to medical care and to their families;
- urging that all nine not be subjected to flogging.

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APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214213 MITI IR; 213133 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Head of the Judiciary
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR or 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for attention Head of the Judiciary)
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian
Minister of Information
Ministry of Information
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 EXT IR; 212600 EXT IR; 214242 EXT IR
(please forward to the Minister of Information)
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

H E Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Avenue
Kooshk-e Mesri
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 March 1992.