

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/05/98

9 February 1998

Further information on UA 30/98 (13/01/98, 29 January 1998) - Death Penalty/Possible Prisoner of Conscience and new concern: Fear of imminent execution

**IRAN Morteza Firouzi, former editor-in-chief of the English-language daily the Iran News, aged 40**

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Morteza Firouzi's appeal against his conviction and death sentence, on charges of spying for "a foreign country", has reportedly been rejected by the Supreme Court. According to press reports he may be hanged within the next few days.

His sole chance of escaping execution now rests with the possibility of a pardon by the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the recommendation of the Head of the Judiciary.

Morteza Firouzi, a political analyst, founded the Iran News, a respected newspaper widely read by foreign diplomats, three years ago. His arrest and death sentence has triggered a wave of anxiety among Iranian journalists, who hoped for greater freedom under the new government of the moderate President Mohammad Khatami. Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience.

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

- urging commutation of the death sentence against Morteza Firouzi;
- asking for his immediate and unconditional release if he is being held solely for his non-violent activities.

**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**

**Faxes: + 98 21 650203 (via Interior Ministry, ask for fax to be forwarded)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) 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**

**Faxes: + 98 21 674790 (via Foreign Affairs, ask for fax to be forwarded)**

**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**

**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  
**Faxes: + 98 21 674790**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative  
Assembly's Human Rights Committee  
Imam Khomeini 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  
**Faxes: + 98 21 204 0541**

and to diplomatic representatives of IRAN accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**