

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/06/96

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Death penalty

9 February 1996

IRAN

Jalal al-Din Farsi

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Amnesty International fears that Jalal al-Din Farsi may be at risk of execution.

Jalal al-Din Farsi, a former member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (parliament) and a former presidential candidate, was convicted by a court in Tehran in January 1996 of killing a man in an argument in 1993 and sentenced to death. An earlier trial had found him guilty of manslaughter and he was ordered to pay blood money to the family of the deceased. The family appealed against the decision and he was the Supreme Court reportedly ordered that he be retried. He has the right to appeal against the sentence to the Supreme Court.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life as laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The organization remains concerned at the continuing high number of executions in Iran. At least 25 executions are reported to have taken place in recent weeks. Most of the victims were said to have been convicted of criminal offences.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters either in English, French or in your own language:

- urging that the death sentence passed against Jalal al-Din Farsi be commuted if upheld on appeal;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### 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 Judiciary, Justice Ministry, Tehran, Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of the Interior

His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi

Ministry of the Interior

Dr Fatemi Avenue

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran Iran**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

His Excellency Dr Ali Akbar Velayati

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee

Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission

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