

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/006/2008

09 January 2008

UA 08/08

Death Penalty

IRAN

**Saeed Jazee (m), aged 21, sculptor, child offender**

---

Sculptor Saeed Jazee was convicted of a murder committed when he was 17, and is now believed to be at risk of execution.

Saeed Jazee was convicted of the murder of a 22-year-old man, which took place in 2003, and sentenced to *qesas* (retribution). The Supreme Court upheld his death sentence and his case has been sent for final approval to the Head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi.

According to reports, the killing took place after Saeed Jazee had gone to a friend's sandwich shop, helped himself to a sandwich and started eating it. The 22-year-old man, who had just started working at the shop and did not know Saeed, started arguing with him about the sandwich and attacked him with a kitchen knife. During the scuffle, the knife fell to the floor and Saeed picked it up at the same time as the man charged at him and was wounded in the process. Saeed Jazee and the other employees in the shop tried to help him. During the trial, the shop's other employees stated that the killing had been accidental. Saeed Jazee has repeatedly stated that the killing was not intentional. His lawyer, Mohammad Mostafaei, is appealing for a retrial.

Under Article 206 (b) of Iran's Criminal Code, murder is classed as premeditated "in cases where the murderer intentionally makes an action which is inherently lethal, even if [the murderer] does not intend to kill the person."

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a state party to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Iran has undertaken not to execute child offenders, those convicted of crimes committed when they were under 18. However, since 1990 Iran has executed at least 28 child offenders, six of them in 2007. At least 79 child offenders are now on death row in Iran. This number may be even higher as at least a further 15 Afghan child offenders have reportedly been sentenced to death.

For more information about executions of child offenders in Iran, please see: *Iran: The last executioner of children* (MDE 13/059/2007, June 2007), <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde130592007>

## RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Persian, Arabic, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Saeed Jazee is at risk of execution for a crime committed when he was under 18;
- calling on the authorities to commute his death sentence;
- reminding them that Iran is a state party to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which prohibits the use of the death penalty against those under the age of 18 at the time of offence, and that the execution of Saeed Jazee would therefore be a violation of international law;
- urging the authorities to pass legislation to abolish the death penalty for offences committed by persons under the age of 18, so bringing Iran's domestic law in line with its obligations under international law;
- stating that Amnesty International acknowledges the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but unconditionally opposes the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader, Islamic Republic Street - Shahid Keshvar Doust Street  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** info@leader.ir

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh / Office of the Head of the Judiciary  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri, Tehran 1316814737, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email:** dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

**via website:** www.president.ir/email

Director, Human Rights Headquarters of Iran

His Excellency Mohammad Javad Larijani  
Howzeh Riassat-e Ghoveh Ghazaiyeh  
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)

Pasteur St.,  
Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri,  
Tehran 1316814737

**Fax:** +98 21 3390 4986 (please keep trying)

**Email:** fsharafi@bia-judiciary.ir (In the subject line: FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani)  
int\_aff@judiciary.ir (In the subject line: FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani)

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 2008.