

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

11 November 1994

IRAN

Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi, aged 73
Mehrdad Amir Rahimi, aged 28, his son, student

There are fears that the father and son named above may be tortured in incommunicado detention.

Retired General Azizollah Amir Rahimi, a former Commander of the Military Police, was arrested on 31 October 1994, interrogated and released the next day. However, he was rearrested on 3 November and reportedly beaten by members of the secret police. It is believed that he is now being held in Evin Prison's hospital. Reports indicate that his detention is due to his open criticisms of the Iranian Government, and follows his recent public call for President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to step down or introduce democratic reforms.

On 7 November, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted the Public Relations Department of the Military Justice as saying that the General has "confessed during his interrogation that he uses opium because of neurological problems". Amnesty International fears that such a "confession" may have been made as a result of torture.

Azizollah Amir Rahimi's son, Mehrdad Amir Rahimi, was arrested on 8 November. He had protested the arrest of his father and had given interviews to foreign media about the arrest. His current whereabouts are unknown.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- urging that Azizollah Amir Rahimi and his son Mehrdad be given immediate access to a lawyer of their own choosing, to family members, and to independent medical care;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- seeking information as to their exact whereabouts, and any charges that have been brought against them;
- calling for them to be immediately and unconditionally released if they are being held solely for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

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: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency Ayatollah
Seyed Ali Khamanei
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) 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; 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency
Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR
(marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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

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 24 December 1994.