

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/10/95

Distr: UA/SC

15 June 1995

UA 138/95 Death Penalty

IRAN Ahmed Bakhtari, aged 40

According to reports received by Amnesty International, Ahmed Bakhtari is once again at risk of execution: Ahmed Bakhtari was the subject of a previous Urgent Action issued on 6 December 1993 (UA 428/93, MDE 13/15/93). He has reportedly been sentenced to death for the second time by a Revolutionary Court in Tehran. He was reportedly charged with, among other things, activities for an illegal opposition group, sedition and armed robbery. The sentence has yet to be confirmed by Iran's Supreme Court.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to information received by the organization in 1993, Ahmed Bakhtari, an agricultural engineer, was arrested on 16 February 1992, tried in January 1993 and sentenced to death by an Islamic Revolutionary Court on 17 January 1993. Following an appeal his sentence was confirmed again on 20 October 1993. The trial procedures were allegedly grossly unfair as he reportedly did not have access to a lawyer. However, in 1994 the death sentence was apparently commuted to life imprisonment. He was charged with the same offences as those mentioned above. He is currently held at Evin Prison in Tehran. The circumstances surrounding the second trial remain unclear.

Amnesty International opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right to be subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization is seriously concerned at the continuing high number of executions. On 31 May 1995 Amnesty International issued a report entitled Iran: Official secrecy hides continuing repression (AI Index: MDE 13/02/95) documenting patterns of gross human rights violations.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported death sentence passed on Ahmed Bakhtari, and urging that the sentence be commuted;
- seeking information about his trial procedures and the precise charges for which he was convicted, as well as the nature of the appeal.
- reminding the authorities of Article 14 (7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Iran is a state party, which states that "No one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country."

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

(marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi

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

3) Minister of Interior

His Excellency

Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi

Ministry of Interior

Dr Fatemi Avenue

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Interior Minister Noori, 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:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency

Dr Ali Akbar Velayati

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 27 July 1995.