

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/10/97

10 February 1997

Further information on UA 269/96 (MDE 13/36/96, 20 November 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 13/40/96, 23 December; MDE 13/08/97, 31 January 1997; MDE 13/09/97, 6 February 1997) - Fear of Safety / Possible Prisoner of Conscience and new concern - Fear of death penalty

IRAN Faraj Sarkouhi, editor  
Isma'il Sarkouhi, brother of Faraj - RELEASED

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According to information received by Amnesty International, Isma'il Sarkouhi was released from detention on or around 6 February 1997. His brother, Faraj, is reportedly still detained.

Amnesty International is concerned at reports by the Iranian news agency, IRNA (6 February), alleging that Faraj Sarkouhi has had an extra-marital affair with a female journalist. Adultery by a married man in Iran is, in most cases, a capital offence. Amnesty International fears that Faraj Sarkouhi may face charges of adultery and risks being sentenced to death.

Amnesty International also notes that a letter attributed to Faraj Sarkouhi and published in a German newspaper, (*Die Tageszeitung*, 31 January) states that he was forced to confess to having an adulterous relationship and to being a spy. Espionage charges in Iran also carry the death penalty.

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty.

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

- welcoming the release of Isma'il Sarkouhi and seeking details of his legal status;
- continuing to seek full details of the whereabouts and legal status of Faraj Sarkouhi, including any charges against him and any trial proceedings which may take place;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Faraj Sarkouhi if he is held as a prisoner of conscience;
- urging that Faraj Sarkouhi be humanely treated and granted immediate and regular access to family members and doctors and lawyers of his choice;
- urging that Faraj Sarkouhi not be sentenced to death.

**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) President

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 the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran**  
**Fax: +98-21-6465242**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) Minister of Information

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian  
Ministry of Information  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES 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  
**Fax: +98-21-674790**

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 Committee,  
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 25 March 1997.