

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/011/2001

22 March 2001

Further information on EXTRA 05/01 (MDE 13/004/2001, 16 January 2001) and follow-up (MDE 13/006/2001, 18 January 2001) - Imminent execution

IRAN Two men aged 20-30, names not known  
Maryam Ayoubi (f), aged 31  
Hossein Esna 'Ashari, aged 24  
Ali Hassanzadeh, aged 25  
Mostafa Nikbakht, aged 22  
Mir Jalil Sayed Nazari, aged 22

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The Iranian Supreme Court has reportedly upheld the death sentence against Maryam Ayoubi. Amnesty International is concerned that she is now at imminent risk of being stoned to death.

On 15 March, the *Kayhan* newspaper (United Kingdom edition, quoting the *Kayhan* newspaper *Iran*) reported that Maryam Ayoubi's sentence had been upheld. There was no indication of when the sentence is due to be carried out. However, Amnesty International fears that it could be carried out within weeks. Previous reports had suggested that Maryam Ayoubi would be stoned following fifteen years' imprisonment, and a report in August 2000 said that her death sentence had been commuted. Reports in January indicated that she would simply be stoned to death. Amnesty International has not been able to confirm any of these reports. Maryam Ayoubi has been sentenced to death for the murder of her husband.

There is no new information about Hossein Esna 'Ashari, who was sentenced to death along with Maryam Ayoubi. He is thought to remain at risk of execution after reports in January that his death sentence had been upheld and would be carried out "soon". There is also no information available on Ali Hassanzadeh, Mostafa Nikbakht, Mir Jalil Sayed Nazari, who were reportedly sentenced to death in November 2000, or on the two unknown men, whose death sentences were postponed in January (see original UA and follow-up).

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

- urging the authorities not to carry out Maryam Ayoubi's sentence, noting that the death penalty - including stoning to death - constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment amounting to torture and as such violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party;
- seeking clarification on whether the death sentences against Hossein Esna 'Ashari, Ali Hassanzadeh, Mostafa Nikbakht and Mir Jalil Sayed Nazari have been upheld, and, if so, asking for the sentences to be commuted immediately;
- urging that the death sentences imposed on the two unknown men, whose executions were postponed in January, be commuted immediately;
- reminding the Iranian authorities of their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3 which says that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran,  
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei  
c/o The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**Head of the Judiciary**

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Faxes: + 98 21 537 8827 (number may be unreliable. A recorded message, in English, will indicate when to send fax - please send before it gives you the tone to leave a voice message)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**President**

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880**  
**E-mails: khatami@president.ir**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**Nasser Qavami, Head of the [?] Judicial & Legal Affairs Committee**

Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami  
Imam Khomeini Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Head of ...? Majles, Tehran**  
**Telex: 21 42 32 ICAI IR**  
**Fax: + 98 21 646 1746 (occasionally difficult to reach, please be patient)**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**