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## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### IRAN

#### **Amnesty International condemns execution of Baha'i**

Amnesty International has received reports today that Ruhullah Rouhani, a member of the Baha'i faith, was executed on 21 July. He had reportedly been tried in September 1997 on charges of converting a Muslim woman to the Baha'i faith. According to the report the woman concerned was not arrested and has claimed that she has always been a Baha'i.

Amnesty International unreservedly condemns the execution of Ruhullah Rouhani, and fears that he was executed for the non-violent expression of his beliefs.

Amnesty International currently knows of seven cases of Baha'i prisoners under sentence of death and is calling for commutation of these and all other death sentences without delay.

In 1997 Amnesty International recorded 143 executions in Iran, though the true figure may well be considerably higher.

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For further information about Amnesty International action on behalf of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran, please refer to the following reports:

*Iran - Executions of prisoners continue unabated*, AI Index MDE 13/18/92, P.5;  
*Iran - Official secrecy hides continuing repression*, AI Index MDE 13/02/95, p.10;  
*Iran - Dhabihullah Mahrami: Prisoner of Conscience*, AI Index MDE 13/34/96;  
*State Injustice: Unfair Trials in the Middle East and North Africa*, AI Index MDE 01/02/98,  
Iran appeals leaflet: Musa Talibi, AI Index MDE 01/03/98  
Amnesty International Reports 1997 and 1998.