

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/15/93
Distr: UA/SC

UA 428/93

Death Penalty

6 December 1993

IRAN

Ahmed Bakhtari, aged 38

Amnesty International fears that Ahmed Bakhtari is at imminent risk of execution. According to information received, he was sentenced to death by an Islamic Revolutionary Court on 17 January 1993, and his sentence was confirmed again on 20 October. He was reportedly convicted of membership of an illegal opposition group. He is currently held at Evin Prison in Tehran.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports Ahmed Bakhtari, who is an agricultural engineer, was arrested on 16 February 1992 and was tried in January 1993. The trial procedures were grossly unfair as he reportedly did not have access to a lawyer. He appealed against the sentence, but the appeal was unsuccessful and the death sentence was reportedly confirmed on 20 October.

Amnesty International opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not 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 in Iran.

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

- expressing regret 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.

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 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

3) His Excellency
Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Minister of Interior
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:

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 17th January 1994.