

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/15/00

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Further information on UA 160/99 (MDE 13/15/99, 9 July 1999) and follow-ups (MDE 13/16/99, 13 July 1999; MDE 13/24/99, 13 September 1999; MDE 13/14/99, 4 November 1999; MDE 13/28/99, 24 November 1999; MDE 13/04/00, 22 February 2000) - Death Penalty/Unfair Trial/Torture

**IRAN Akbar Mohammadi, student**

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Akbar Mohammadi and four other students have had their death sentences commuted to 15 years' imprisonment.

According to Iranian press reports, the commutation of the sentences was approved by the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei.

The five were sentenced to death by Tehran's Revolutionary Court in September 1999, in connection with last July's student demonstrations. The demonstrators were protesting peacefully against new laws curbing press freedom and the closure of the daily newspaper *Salam*. Members of the vigilante student group *Ansar-e Hezbollah* who attacked the demonstrators were joined by members of the security forces, and at least one student was killed.

Akbar Mohammadi is the brother of Manuchehr Mohammadi, a leading member of the student organisation *Anjoman-e Daneshjuyan va Daneshamukhtegan Melli* (National Association of Students and Graduates), who was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in connection with the demonstrations.

**No further action is required at this time. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**