

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 86/05 (MDE 13/012/2005, 14 April 2005) - Imminent execution/flogging

IRAN

Rasoul Mohammadi (m), aged 17

Mousa Ali Mohammadi (m), aged 46, his father

Seventeen-year-old Rasoul Mohammadi has been granted a stay of execution, but his father, Mousa Ali Mohammadi, was publicly hanged in a central square in the city of Esfahan on 16 April.

Rasoul Mohammadi, who was reportedly due to be executed on the same day as his father, was granted a stay of execution because of “ambiguities” about his age, according to local judicial officials quoted in the press.

Rasoul Mohammadi and his father were sentenced to death by a court in Esfahan for abducting 40 young girls, stealing their jewellery and raping at least four of them. They apparently confessed to the charges during interrogation.

As a state party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Iran has undertaken not to execute anyone for an offence committed when they were under the age of 18. Despite this, 11 child offenders have been executed in Iran since 1990. On 20 January 2005 Imam Farokhi was executed for a crime committed when he was 17 years old.

In 2004, Amnesty International recorded a total of at least 159 executions in Iran, although the true figure may be considerably higher. Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. We will be monitoring the case and taking further campaigning action as necessary. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.