

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/19/95

UA 259/95

Death Penalty

22 November 1995

IRAN Rahman Rajabi, aged 28

Amnesty International fears that Rahman Rajabi may be at risk of imminent execution. He is reportedly a former member of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), a Kurdish group engaged in armed opposition to the Iranian government.

Rahman Rajabi, from Naqadeh in North Western Iran, is married with one child. He was reportedly arrested in July 1995, and later sentenced to death, possibly in October. The exact charges are unknown, but are believed to relate to membership of the KDPI. It is not clear if he has appealed to the Supreme Court against his conviction and sentence. He is reportedly held in Darya Prison in Oromieh.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Seven members of the KDPI were reportedly executed in September 1995. Sahabaddin Taheri; Sannar Taheri; Timur Ibrahimi; Mohammad Amin; and two men identified only as Avaz and Rahim were said to have been executed by firing squad in Oromieh Prison, after approximately one year in detention. The seventh, Rashid Abu Bakri, was later hanged, also in Oromieh Prison. All were reportedly convicted of membership of, and collaborating with, the KDPI. Two other political prisoners, Assad Akhavan and a man identified as Sadeghi, were also reportedly executed in September, after several years' in prison. Amnesty International has no information as to the legal process followed in these nine cases.

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 about the continuing high number of executions in Iran, both for political and other offences, including drug and sexual offences. For example, in November, Mehdi Barazandeh, a Dervish mystic, was reported to have been stoned to death for adultery and sodomy in Hamadan.

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

- expressing concern at the reported death sentence passed on Rahman Rajabi, and urging that the sentence be commuted if confirmed on appeal;
- seeking detailed information about the procedures of his trial, and the precise charges of which he was convicted, as well as details of any appeal which has been made;
- expressing regret at the news of the execution of seven KDPI members and two other political prisoners in September 1995;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.

APPEALS TO:

1) Leader of the Islamic Republic
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamanei
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamanei, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR (marked for the attention of Ayatollah Khamanei)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) 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 (marked for the attention of President Rafsanjani)
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
 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 Justice Ministry)
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
 Ministry of the Interior
 Dr Fatemi Avenue
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR (marked for the attention of the Interior Minister)
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
 His Excellency
 Dr Ali Akbar Velayati
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue
 Tehran
 Islamic Republic of Iran

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani
 Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee
 Imam Khomeini Avenue
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi
 Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
 PO Box 13165-137
 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 7 January 1995.