

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/019/2005

4 May 2005

Further Information on UA 318/03 (EUR 44/025/2003, 5 November 2003) and follow-up (MDE 13/032/2004, 20 August 2004) - Fear of execution/ unfair trial

IRAN Hojjat Zamani (m), aged 29

The death sentence against Hojjat Zamani has reportedly been upheld by the Supreme Court and could be carried out at any time. He was sentenced to death by Branch Six of Tehran's Revolutionary Court on 17 July 2004.

Hojjat Zamani was accused of allegedly aiding the armed opposition group, People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI) to plant a bomb outside a Revolutionary Court in 1998, which reportedly injured 22 people and killed three others. He was charged with 'corruption on earth' (*mafsad fil arz*) and 'enmity against god' (*moharebeh*), under Articles 183, 186 and 187 of Iran's penal code. Both of these vaguely worded charges, which relate to national security and membership of banned organisations, carry the death penalty.

Hojjat Zamani is believed to have been represented by a court-appointed lawyer during his trial, who Amnesty International fears may not have provided effective counsel. He is currently detained in Raja'i Shahr prison in Karaj, just outside Tehran. He went on a thirty day hunger strike in January 2005.

Hojjat Zamani was reportedly arrested in Tehran in 2000, and according to a PMOI statement, was severely tortured in detention. In August 2003, he escaped from detention and fled to Turkey. However he was reportedly arrested in Istanbul by Turkish authorities acting in cooperation with Iran's intelligence services. He was forcibly returned to Iran in November 2003.

In March 2000, Hojjat Zamani's father and two of his brothers were arrested at their home. Hojjat Zamani's father was reportedly badly beaten and thrown out of a moving car into the street. His two brothers were executed in 2001. Reports indicate that the executions and the detention of Hojjat Zamani, contributed to the medical condition that culminated in the death of his father in 2001.

To view the campaign 'web log' set up by supporters of Hojjat Zamani, please see <http://hizamani.blogspot.com>

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Persian, English, Arabic or your own language:

- recognizing the rights and responsibilities of states to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences;
- stating your unconditional opposition to the death penalty irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed, as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and a violation of the right to life;
- expressing concern that the death sentence against Hojjat Zamani has reportedly been upheld by the Supreme Court;
- urging the authorities to commute the death sentence against Hojjat Zamani with a view to identifying an alternative to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that email server in Iran are unreliable. If your message bounces for any reason, please resend it)

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: + 98 21 649 5880 (please mark 'For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)
Email: info@wilayah.org OR webmaster@wilayah.org (on the subject line write: For the attention of the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (mark 'Please forward to HE Ayatollah Shahroudi')
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: matbuat@mfa.gov.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

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 15 June 2005.