

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/20/96

26 June 1996

Further information on UA 266/95 (MDE 13/21/95, 29 November 1995) and follow-ups (MDE 13/03/96, 23 January 1996 and MDE 13/10/96, 22 March) - Fear of torture / Legal concern and new concern: Fear of death penalty

IRANHojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi al-Dhakeri, aged 41
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin 'Abdolrahman al-Ha'eri, aged 32
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed 'Abdolrasul al-Musawi, aged 40
Hojjatoleslam Taleb al-Salehi, aged 24
Hojjatoleslam Mohammed Fazel Mohammad al-Saffar, aged 23
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad 'Ali Ma'ash, aged 24
Sighatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian, aged 30
Mohammad al-Ghaffari, aged 42
Hadi al-Akhound al-Dhakeri, aged 29
Iyad Fujian, aged 25
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi, aged 29
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Ja'far Ghani al-Ha'eri
Hojjatoleslam Muhammad Saleh Hedayati
Hojjatoleslam Sayed Abbas Musawi
Ahmad Akhound
Jalal Akhound
and 7 others

and new names: Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Mehdi Shirazi
(brother of Sayed Morteza), aged about 20
Ali al-Rumaythi
Sheikh Hossein al-Dhakeri (brother of Mohammad Taqi
and Hadi)
Hojjatoleslam Sheikh Azizollah Hassani, aged about 60

Amnesty International has received reports of the arrest of at least four more people connected to Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, and fears that they may also be prisoners of conscience, at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

On 19 June 1996, Sayed Mehdi Shirazi, the fourth son of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, was reported to have been arrested from his car between Qom and Tehran. On the same day, Ali al-Rumaythi, a member of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi's staff, is reported to have been arrested in Qom. The following day, Sheikh Hossein al-Dhakeri, another member of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi's staff, is also said to have been arrested in Qom. On 20 or 21 June, Sheikh Azizollah Hassani was also arrested in Tehran. There are conflicting reports as to whether Sheikh Hossein al-Dhakeri has been released, but at least the other three are believed to be held in incommunicado detention.

Most, if not all, of the other 23 referred to above are believed to remain in detention, and to have been subjected to various kinds of torture. Many are now believed to be held in Evin prison in Tehran. At least two are said to have been sentenced to prison terms after unfair trials before the Special Court for Clerics, in which they reportedly had no access to a lawyer. Sheikh Ja'far Ghani has been sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment and Sayed Abdolrasoul al-Musawi has reportedly been sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. There are also fears that at least some of those who have not yet been tried may face the death penalty, if convicted.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in English, French or your own language:

- seeking information about the current whereabouts and legal status of Sayed Mehdi Shirazi, Ali al-Rumaythi, Sheikh Hossein Dhakeri and Sheikh Azizollah Hassani.
- urging that, if detained, their families be informed immediately of their whereabouts, and that they, and all the others, be granted access to prompt and regular family visits, and to lawyers and doctors of their choice;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and independent investigation into the reports of torture of many of those arrested previously, and urging that all detainees be protected from torture or ill-treatment;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and urging that no-one should be executed;

and if possible, also:

- seek full details of all the charges against those detained, and the evidence against them, including details of any trial proceedings, judgements and sentences;
- urge that all those detained be released if not promptly and fairly tried on recognizably criminal charges. Any prisoners of conscience should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- express concern that the trials of Sheikh Ja'far Ghani and Sayed Abdolrasoul al-Musawi appear not to have met internationally-recognized standards for fair trial, and urging that they be retried promptly and fairly, on recognizably criminal charges, or be released.

APPEALS TO:

1) Leader of the Islamic Republic
 His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
 The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran
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
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Head of the Judiciary
 His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
 Ministry of Justice
 Park-e Shahr
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) Minister of the Interior
 His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
 Ministry of the Interior
 Dr Fatemi Avenue
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Interior Ministry, Tehran, Iran
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
P.O. 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 20 August 1996.