

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/27/96

1 August 1996

Further information on EXTRA 115/96 (MDE 13/26/96, 25 July 1996) - Death Penalty / Flogging / Torture / Unfair Trial

IRAN Hedayatollah Zendehtdel, businessman
Abolghasem Majd-Abkahi, businessman
Alireza Yazdanshenas, former air force officer
Kurosh Nikakhtar, 28 years old, journalist

Amnesty International has learned that Kurosh Nikakhtar has been pardoned by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Kurosh Nikakhtar had been accused of firing shots at the President on 1 February 1994. His death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court on 23 July 1996.

Although the Leader of the Islamic Republic has the power to commute death sentences, under the law of Qesas (Retribution), the victim of an attack has the right to waive capital punishment.

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

- welcoming the President's decision to pardon Kurosh Nikakhtar;
- urging that the death sentences against Hedayatollah Zendehtdel, Abolghasem Majd-Abkahi and Alireza Yazdanshenas be commuted;
- 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 Khamenei
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) President
His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The 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 the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) Minister of the Interior
His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Ministry of the Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue

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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

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 1 September 1996.