

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/29/97

EXTRA 96/97

Death Penalty/ Flogging

8 July 1997

IRAN Hossein Dowlatkhah, businessman, aged about 58

Hossein Dowlatkhah was sentenced to death on Wednesday 18 June 1997 by a revolutionary court in Tehran.

Hossein Dowlatkhah was charged with swindling investors, corruption and embezzlement. The court also accused him of organising "lavish parties" with drugs, for which he was sentenced to flogging. Iran's official news agency, IRNA reported on Thursday 19 June that Hossein Dowlatkhah had launched an appeal that would be referred to the Supreme Court. Amnesty International has since received other reports which suggest that his appeal to the Supreme Court has been rejected. His sole chance of escaping execution now rests with the possibility of a pardon by the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the recommendation of the Head of the Judiciary.

Hossein Dowlatkhah was reportedly arrested around April 1990 when he attempted to flee the country along with his family. He is currently being held in Evin Prison in Tehran.

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

- expressing concern at reports that the sentence of death and flogging against Hossein Dowlatkhah have been upheld by the Supreme Court, and urging commutation of these sentences to a more humane punishment;
- calling for the commutation of all other pending death sentences in Iran to more humane punishments.

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 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
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Tehran, Iran
Faxes: +98 21 655 426/899 547/650203
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
Fax: +98-21-674790

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative
Assembly's Human Rights Committee
Iman Khomeini Avenue, Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i
Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Committee
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 5 August 1997.