

PUBLIC

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29 March 2006

UA 70/06 Imminent execution/unfair trial

IRAN Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi (m), aged 28

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Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi is believed to be at imminent risk of execution in Gohar Dasht Prison, in the city of Karaj, near Tehran. According to reports, in recent weeks, he has received a number of threats from prison officials that he would be executed soon. On 24 March prison authorities reportedly showed Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi his death warrant, on which his date of execution was said to be scheduled for 16 May 2006, and forced him to sign it.

Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi is a supporter of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), an illegal opposition group which has in the past carried out armed attacks in Iran. He is believed to have been detained in 2001 and sentenced to death after being convicted of *moharebeh* (enmity with God, a term often applied to those accused of armed resistance to the state). He was reportedly tried before a Revolutionary Court, but did not have access to a lawyer.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hojjat Zamani, a PMOI member who had received a similar pattern of threats, was executed on 7 February 2006 at Gohar Dasht Prison. His execution was confirmed officially only on 21 February (see UA 318/03, EUR 44/025/2003, 5 November 2003, and follow-ups).

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but strongly opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violation of the right to life.

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

- stating that Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but strongly opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violation of the right to life;
- urging that the death sentence imposed on Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi be commuted immediately;
- seeking details of his trial, including details of the charges against him and any appeals he may have made;
- expressing concern at reports that he was not granted access to a lawyer during his trial and as such his trial did not meet international standards for fair trial, as laid down by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is a State Party.

#### APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street, Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: [info@leader.ir](mailto:info@leader.ir)  
[istiftaa@wilayah.org](mailto:istiftaa@wilayah.org)

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 His Excellency Ayatollah Shahroudi")  
This email address can be unreliable. If it does not work, please send your appeal via  
the judiciary website: [www.iranjudiciary.org/feedback\\_en.html](http://www.iranjudiciary.org/feedback_en.html)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Fax:** + 98 21 6 649 5880

**Email:** [dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir](mailto:dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir)

**(via website)** <http://www.president.ir/email>

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 10 May 2006.