

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/032/2008

05 February 2008

Further Information on UA 230/07 (MDE 13/109/2007, 31 August 2007) imminent execution/child offender

IRAN **Behnam Zare' (m), child offender**

Child offender Behnam Zare' is now facing execution within 72 hours. The order to carry out his execution has been sent to the prison where he is held.

Behnam Zare' was convicted of a murder committed when he was 15 years old. Iran is a state party to international treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which expressly prohibit the execution of child offenders. Behnam Zare' has been detained in Adelabad prison, in the south-western city of Shiraz, since his arrest.

The murder reportedly took place on 21 April 2005, when Behnam Zare' swung a knife during an argument with a man named Mehrdad, wounding him in the neck. Mehrdad later died in hospital. Behnam Zare' was detained on 13 November 2005; Branch 5 of Fars Criminal Court sentenced him to *qesas* (retribution) for premeditated murder. Under Article 206 (b) of Iran's Criminal Code, murder is classed as premeditated "in cases where the murderer intentionally makes an action which is inherently lethal, even if [the murderer] does not intend to kill the person." The case went on appeal before Branch 33 of the Supreme Court where the sentence was upheld, and it has now been passed to the Office for Implementation of Sentences.

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

- expressing concern that Behnam Zare' is in imminent danger of execution for a crime committed when he was under 18;
- calling on the authorities to halt the execution of Behnam Zare' immediately, and commute his death sentence.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street - Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: **info@leader.ir**
Salutation: **Your Excellency**

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Justice Building, Panzdah-Khordad Square,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: **info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)**
Salutation: **Your Excellency**

COPIES TO:

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

via website: 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 18 March 2008.