

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/37/96

21 November 1996

Further information on UA 266/95 (MDE 13/21/95, 29 November 1995) and follow-up (MDE 13/03/96, 23 January 1996; MDE 13/10/96, 22 March; MDE 13/20/96, 26 June; MDE 13/32/96, 20 August) - Fear of Torture / Legal Concern / Fear of death penalty

IRANHojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Fazel Mohammad  
al-SaffarHojjatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian  
Mohammad Ghaffari  
Hadi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Saleh Hedayati  
Hojjatoleslam Sayed Mehdi Shirazi (brother of Sayed Morteza)  
and 7 others

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Amnesty International has learned that Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Morteza Shirazi, the second son of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, was released from detention for almost 48 hours between 21 and 23 October 1996 after which he was summoned back to prison and detained. Reports that he had what looked like burn scars on his neck and hands have heightened concern for his safety, and the safety of the others listed above who all remain in detention.

Sayed Morteza Shirazi was arrested in Qom on 21 November 1995. Indeed all except Sayed Mehdi Shirazi have been in detention for a year or more. Sayed Mehdi Shirazi was arrested in June 1996 and has been held in incommunicado detention ever since. Hojjatoleslam Muhammad Saleh Hedayati is the only one reported to have been tried; it is not clear whether the others have been formally charged with any offences, despite responses sent to members of the UA Network from Iranian embassies listing a number of allegations against some of the detainees. It also appears that none has been granted access to a lawyer of his choice. There continues to be no information as to the fate of seven students arrested on 12 November 1995.

Amnesty International remains concerned that those detained may be held solely on account of their relationship to, or their peaceful support for, Grand Ayatollah Shirazi. If so, they would be prisoners of conscience, and should be released immediately and unconditionally. In any event, they should be allowed regular access to family members and to lawyers of their choice. In addition, the organization is concerned that these men, and others who have since been released, have been tortured, and that if tried and convicted some could face the death penalty.

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

- calling for a prompt, thorough, and independent investigation into all allegations of torture, the methods and findings of which should be made public;
- seeking assurances that all those who remain in detention will be protected from torture and ill-treatment;
- seeking details of the legal status of all those who remain detained including full details of all the charges and evidence against them and details of any trial proceedings, judgements and sentences;
- urging that they be released if not promptly and fairly tried on recognizably criminal charges. Any prisoners of conscience should be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

2) 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 Information  
His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian  
Ministry of Information  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Telegrams: Information Minister, 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

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 31 December 1996.