

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/41/96

30 December 1996

Further information on EXTRA 115/96 (MDE 13/26/96, 25 July 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 13/27/96, 1 August 1996; MDE 13/39/96, 25 November 1996) - Death Penalty / Flogging / Torture / Unfair Trial

IRAN Hedayatollah Zendehtdel, businessman  
Abolghasem Majd-Abkahi, businessman  
Alireza Yazdanshenas, former air force officer  
and new name: Sheyda Khoramzadeh Esfahani (f)

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Amnesty International is extremely concerned that Sheyda Khoramzadeh Esfahani is at risk of imminent execution, along with the others in this case. Earlier reports suggested that one of the men may already have been executed.

According to Iranian newspaper reports, Sheyda Khoramzadeh Esfahani, the wife of Abolghasem Majd-Abkahi, was sentenced to death, reportedly after conviction on charges including "organizing 'corrupt gatherings' with prostitutes, alcohol, drugs, music and dance 'to establish immoral contacts with people in various government bodies'". Her conviction, which is believed to relate to the same case as her husband, and which was apparently passed *in camera*, is said to have been upheld by the Supreme Court. Although Amnesty International has no information about her trial, the organization is concerned about the fairness of the trial of the three men named above, and that at least one of them may have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

In her mid-40s and with an eight-year-old daughter, Sheyda Khoramzadeh Esfahani was reportedly arrested in June 1995 and is believed to be held in a prison in Tehran.

Some UA participants have received copies of responses from Iranian Embassies which give details of the charges against the three men named above, and which refer to Iran's position with respect to the death penalty. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it constitutes the ultimate cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, and that it violates the right to life.

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

- continuing to express extreme concern that the death sentences against Hedayatollah Zendehtdel, Abolghasem Majd-Abkahi, Alireza Yazdanshenas and Sheyda Khoramzadeh Esfahani have all been confirmed, and that one may have already been executed;
- calling for these and all other pending death sentences in Iran to 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;
- seeking information about the details of the trial of Sheyda Khoramzadeh, including whether she had access to a lawyer of her choice.

**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**  
**Telexes: 212332/213113**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) The 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**  
**Telexes: 212332/213113**  
**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**  
**Faxes: +98-21-6465242**  
**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  
**Faxes: +98-21-674790**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee

Imam Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Telex: 212450/214242

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 30 January 1997.