

PUBLIC

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Further Information on 38/08 (MDE 13/038/2008, 12 February 2008) and follow-up (13/048/2008, 12 February 2008) - Death Sentence/Unfair Trial/Torture

IRAN Ya'qoub Mehrnehad (m) aged 28, member of Iran's Baluchi minority

Ya'qoub Mehrnehad, a Baluchi cultural and civil rights activist, was executed on 4 August after his death sentence was approved by Iran's prosecutor-general.

Ya'qoub Mehrnehad was sentenced to death in February 2008 after an unfair trial. Judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi, confirmed the sentence at a press conference on 19 February and stated that Ya'qoub Mehrnehad had been sentenced to death for "contacts with the *Jondallah* group", and that the sentence was open to appeal before the Supreme Court.

Zahedan's Public and Revolution Prosecutor Office had announced that Ya'qoub Mehrnehad was considered to be a member of *Jondallah*, also known as the Iranian Peoples' Resistance Movement, and aiding Abdolmalek Rigi, the head of a Baluchi armed group. They were then charged with *mohareb* (enmity with God), and *mofsed fi'l arz* (corruption on earth).

Ya'qoub Mehrnehad's arrest, in May 2007, is believed to have been in connection to his work as a journalist and his activities as head of a registered NGO, The Voice of Justice Young People's Society, which organizes events and educational courses for young Baluchi people and raises funds to help the poor.

In a meeting with his family Ya'qoub Mehrnehad said, "I am not guilty and this has happened unjustly and if I am executed, people will know that I have been executed without [having committed] a crime."

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.