
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 109/93

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 1993

AI INDEX: NWS 11/109/93
DISTR: SC/PO
NO OF WORDS: 570

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - IRAN, ALGERIA

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Saudi Arabia - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 105

Yugoslavia/Kosovo - 23 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 104

Sudan - 29 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Yemen - 26 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 95

Iraq - 8 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 105

North Korea - 1 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Myanmar - 8 October (International).

EJEs and "Disappearances" - 20 October (International)

Venezuela - 10 November (International, linked to EJEs & Disappearances)

AI INDEX: MDE 13/WU 03/93 EXTERNAL
1 SEPTEMBER 1993

IRAN: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED AT REPORTS OF ABDUCTION OF IRANIAN NATIONAL IN TURKEY

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that an Iranian national, Mohammad Ghaderi, was abducted at his house in Kirshahir in Turkey on 25 August 1993. Mohammad Ghaderi is a former member of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI). According to reports, two men, who introduced themselves as Turkish police officers, entered his house and took him away. His whereabouts since then remain unknown. On 28 August 1993 another Iranian national, Bahram Azadifar, who was a member of the KDPI, was found dead in his house in Ankara. He was reportedly visited by two men disguised as Turkish policemen who killed him instantly.

Amnesty International is concerned for Mohammad Ghaderi's safety in the light of Bahram Azadifar's assassination and previous incidents involving the murder or kidnapping of Iranian opposition activists outside Iran. Such incidents include the kidnapping in June 1992 of Ali Akbar Ghorbani, also known as Mansour Amini, close to his home in Istanbul. His mutilated body was discovered several months later in Turkey.

Amnesty International has sought assurances from the Turkish Minister of Interior that all efforts are being made to ascertain the current whereabouts of Mohammad Ghaderi.

AI INDEX: MDE 28/WU 03/93 EXTERNAL
1 SEPTEMBER 1993

ALGERIA: AI REGRETS EXECUTIONS

Amnesty International deeply regrets the execution by firing squad of seven people yesterday in Algeria. The organization had recently written to the Algerian President to express its concern at the high number of death sentences passed since the beginning of the year, urging him not to take the irrevocable step of allowing any executions to be carried out and to commute death sentences when the pleas for clemency are presented to him.

Amnesty International also expressed its concern that those condemned to death were sentenced in trials which had fallen short of international fair trial standards.

Over 250 death sentences have been passed this year, most of them by the Special Courts set up by a decree of October 1992 which provides for accelerated and secret justice for those accused of "terrorist" offences, doubling the sentences for such offences. The law is retroactive, inasmuch as any case under instruction or awaiting judgment can be transferred to the Special Courts and thus be subjected to increased penalties which did not apply at the time of the offence. The right of appeal of those sentenced by the Special Courts is limited to a review by the Supreme Court, which only rules on procedures and does not re-examine facts.

Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice and to punish those responsible for criminal offences, but unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.