



**amnesty  
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
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United Kingdom

**URGENT  
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

16 August 1988

IRAN: Political Executions

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Amnesty International is concerned by evidence that a new wave of political executions is taking place in Iran.

In recent weeks the official Iranian media have continued to report the execution of government opponents. These include 10 "counter-revolutionaries and Iraqi spies" executed on 10 July, seven members of the outlawed People's Mojahedine Organization of Iran hanged in public in Bakhtaran on 1 August and another member of that organization hanged in public in Ilam on 3 August. Approvals by the Supreme Judicial Council of death sentences on members of opposition groups also continue to be reported.

Amnesty International has also received reports that three leading members of the Tudeh Party, Kiumars Zarshenas, Simin Fardin and Sa'id Azarang, and a member of the People's Fedaiyan Organization of Iran (Majority), Faramarz Sufi, were executed by firing squad in Evin Prison on 20 July. It is alleged that up to eight others were executed at the same time, and that death sentences have been confirmed on 55 more political prisoners who are now awaiting execution.

Amnesty International 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 treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the case of Iran it is particularly concerned by the lack of provisions for fair trial in political cases, and the lack of any procedure for prisoners sentenced to death to appeal against conviction or sentence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing deep regret at these executions and asking for details of the procedures by which death sentences are being passed and approved;
- urging the commutation of all outstanding death sentences and an end to executions in Iran.

**Telephone 01-833 1771    Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1    Telex: 28502**

**Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.**

APPEALS TO:

H.E. Ayatollah Abdulkarim  
Musavi Ardebili  
Chief Justice and President of  
the Supreme Judicial Council  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Chief Justice,  
Justice Ministry, Tehran, Iran

Telexes: 214231 miti ir;  
213113 prim ir;  
marked for the attention of the  
Chief Justice.

H.E. Dr Hassan Ebrahim Habibi  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister,  
Tehran, Iran

Telexes: as for the Chief Justice,  
marked for the attention of the  
Minister of Justice

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Note: Some appeals should be sent in a PERSONAL or PROFESSIONAL capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 September 1988.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.