

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/05/97

24 January 1997

Further information (7) on UA 266/95 (MDE 13/37/96, 26/11/96) and follow-up (MDE 13/03/96, 22 March 1996; MDE 13/20/96, 26 June 1996; MDE 13/32/96, 20 August; MDE 13/37/96, 21 November 1996; MDE 13/03/97, 9 January 1997) - Fear of Torture / Legal Concern / Fear of Death Penalty

IRAN Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Mohammad Taqi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam Fu'ad Fujian  
Hadi Dhakeri  
Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Saleh Hedayati  
and seven others

new names: Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori,  
aged about 44

Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Hossein Fali, aged about 42  
and several others

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Amnesty International has learned that there have been several more arrests of followers of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi, including Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori and his wife who were arrested on 14 January 1997, and Sayed Hossein Fali who was arrested on 14 or 15 January 1997. According to reports, in neither case was a warrant shown, and no reason was given for the arrest. Amnesty International fears that they are at risk of torture.

According to reports, Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori was arrested from a street in Qom along with his wife. He is said to be a well-known religious figure and a writer on Islamic themes. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Hossein Fali was also arrested in Qom and was taken to an unknown destination. His whereabouts also remain unknown. He has reportedly been arrested and imprisoned on several previous occasions for association with Grand Ayatollah Shirazi. He is said to have been tortured during his previous arrests and to have undergone surgery as a result.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that all three were beaten during arrest.

Amnesty International is seeking information about the legal status of Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori, his wife and Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Hossein Fali and the other detainees referred to above. It fears that they may be prisoners of conscience, held solely on account of their relationship to, or peaceful support for, Grand Ayatollah Shirazi. If so, they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

The organization fears that Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori and Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Hossein Fali are at risk of torture or ill-treatment, particularly in the light of reports that other followers of Grand Ayatollah Shirazi have been tortured under interrogation.

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

- seeking clarification of the current whereabouts of Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sheikh Mohammad Amin Ghafoori and his wife, and of Hojjatoleslam val muslimin Sayed Hossein Fali;

- seeking clarification of the legal situation of all the detainees, including full details of all the charges and evidence against them and details of any trial proceedings, judgements and sentences;
- urging that they all be granted prompt and regular access to family members, lawyers of their choice, independent doctors, and a prompt judicial review of their detention;
- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated and that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

**If possible, also:**

- urging a prompt, thorough and independent investigation of reports of torture of those previously arrested and of the beatings of those recently arrested.

**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**  
**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**  
**Fax: +98-21-6465242**  
**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  
**Fax: +98-21-674790**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee,  
Iman Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Committee,  
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 7 March 1997.