

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/32/97

EXTRA 110/97

Fear of imminent execution

6 August 1997

IRANGholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh, aged 28

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Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh is reported to have been sentenced to death and could be executed within days.

Media reports dated 6 August 1997 state that the Supreme Court is expected to confirm the death sentence within 48 hours and that Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh will be hanged from a crane in public in Shahrak Rah-Ahan. Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh was convicted of the kidnap, rape and murder of nine girls and women aged between 10 to 47 over a four-month period this year, and sentenced to death nine times. He received a tenth death sentence for kidnapping and raping a girl in 1993.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of violent criminal offences, as in this case, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

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

- urging that the death sentences against Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh be commuted;
- acknowledging the serious nature of the crimes in this case, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter violent crime more effectively than other punishments;
- stating your opposition to the death penalty as the most extreme form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life, irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed.

**APPEALS TO:**

**(Note: It can be difficult to obtain a fax tone to Iran)**

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**

**Faxes: +98 21 650203 (via Interior Ministry, ask for fax to be forwarded)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) President

Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran**

**Fax: +98-21-674790 (via Foreign Affairs, ask for fax to be forwarded)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman of the Islamic Consultative  
Assembly's Human Rights Committee

2

Iman Khomeini Avenue, Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far  
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 your Section office, or the International Secretariat, if sending appeals after 25 August 1997.