

EXTRA 183/99

Death penalty / Flogging

23 Decemb

IRANMorteza Amini Moqaddam, aged 18 (m)**Hamed Nazari (m)**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned at reports that Morteza Amini Moqaddam, who was sentenced to death on 16 December 1999 after being found guilty of murder, will be executed, in public, in the next few days.

On 19 December, *Agence France Presse* (French Press Agency), reported that the former Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis), Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, had called for the sentence to be carried out "as soon as possible".

According to recent reports in *Azad* newspaper, Morteza Amini Moqaddam was sentenced to death for the murder of Hadi Mohebbi, a law enforcement official and that this sentence was confirmed by the High Court on 22 December.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Hamed Nazari, who was charged in connection with the murder, has been sentenced to 74 lashes. He also reportedly received a 15 year prison sentence.

Morteza Amini Moqaddam is accused of stabbing Hadi Mohebbi to death after he and four others allegedly went into the shop where he was working and attacked him.

At the end of the one-day trial Morteza Amini Moqaddam reportedly expressed regret, saying that he never intended to kill him.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes and E-mails in English or your own language:

- urging that the death sentence imposed on Morteza Amini Moqaddam be halted immediately;
- recognising the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of violent criminal offences, but stating your unconditional opposition to the death penalty irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed, as the ultimate violation of the right to life;
- expressing concern that Hamed Nazari has been sentenced to flogging, which constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and is a violation of Article 7 of the ICCPR to which Iran is a state party, and urging that the sentence not be carried out;
- reminding the Iranian authorities of their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei
c/o The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi

Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams:Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes:+ 98 21 537 8827 (a recorded message, in English, will indicate when
to send fax - please send before it gives you the tone to leave
a voice message)**

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam Sayed Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams:President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Faxes:+ 98 21 649 5880

E-mails:khatami@president.ir

Salutation:Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.