

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/34/97

12 August 1997

Further information on EXTRA 110/97 (MDE 13/32/97, 6 August 1997) - Fear of imminent execution and new concern: Flogging

IRANGholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh, aged 28

And: His brother, sister and sister-in-law

The Iranian Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentences against Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh and it is reported that he will be publicly executed in Shahrak Rah-Ahan, in western Tehran, on 13 August 1997.

It is also reported that a sentence of flogging has begun to be carried out against Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh prior to his execution. The total number of lashes he is to receive is unclear, but may be as many as 900.

The brother, sister and sister-in-law of Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh are also reported to have been sentenced to 70 lashes each for failing to report his crimes.

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.

The organization also opposes the judicial punishment of flogging on the grounds that it constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, both unconditionally prohibited under international law.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send as many immediate telegrams or faxes as possible, 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 stating your opposition to the death penalty irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed;
- expressing concern at reports of the flogging sentences against Gholamreza Khoshrou Kouran Kordieh and three of his relatives, and urging that they not be carried out.

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
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.