

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 13/38/96

22 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 136/96 (MDE 13/33/96, 23 August 1996) - Death Penalty

IRANEslam Kordlor

Amnesty International has just learned that the Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentence against Eslam Kordlor. The organization is extremely concerned that he may face imminent execution. He was convicted of being "corrupt on earth" (*mofsed fil-arz*), in connection with allegedly defrauding 11,000 depositors of \$4 million by running a pyramid scheme during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and "jeopardising sound investment in the county".

While recognising the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring those accused of criminal offences to justice, Amnesty International opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of executions reported in Iran in 1996, with the total recorded now well over 80.

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

- expressing concern at the reported confirmation of the death sentence passed on Eslam Kordlor and urging that the sentence be commuted;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.
- drawing attention to Article 1 of the UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, which states that "capital punishment may be imposed only for the most serious crimes, it being understood that their scope should not go beyond intentional crimes with lethal or other extremely grave consequences."

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) The President
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
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) Minister of the Interior
His Excellency Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi
Ministry of the Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, 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

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

Mr Hussain Farahi, Secretary, Islamic Human Rights Commission
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 25 December 1996.