

EXTERNAL

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Flogging

8 October 1997

IRAN Mohammad Ali Ghasemi, a Tehran district mayor

According to press reports, Mohammad Ali Ghasemi has been sentenced to 170 lashes following his conviction on charges of "illegitimate relationships" with three women and illicit drug use.

Mohammad Ali Ghasemi, a Tehran district mayor, was reportedly also sentenced to seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment and five years in exile in an unidentified region. He was also reported to have been fined 400 million rials (US\$ 130,000) and banned from holding any government position.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reports suggest that Mohammad Ali Ghasemi is the second district mayor sentenced to imprisonment in the past week as part of a clampdown on alleged corruption in Tehran. Two other district mayors and several other municipality officials are currently reported to be in detention and awaiting the outcome of their trials.

Amnesty International opposes the judicial punishment of flogging on the grounds that it amounts to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, both unconditionally prohibited under international law.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in or your own language:

-urging that the flogging sentence against Mohammad Ali Ghassemi be commuted, and stating your belief that flogging contravenes Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

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) President

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

Telegrams: President Khatami, 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 Abdollah Nouri
Ministry of the Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Tehran, Iran
Faxes: +98 21 655 426/899 547/650203
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
His Excellency Dr Kamal Kharrazi
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 Mohammad Hassan Zia'i-Far
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 19 November 1997.