

Reference number 3052
Date and time 88.09.13 --16:00.54

REF: 3052 DATE: 880913-TIME: 15:24
TLX 743/CMD

PLEASE PASS URGENTLY TO YOUR MEDICAL GROUP FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

DUE TO URGENCY AND A MAIL STRIKE IN THE UK, THIS IS BEING TELEXED TO AS MANY SECTIONS WITH MEDICAL GROUPS AS POSSIBLE. PRINTED VERSION WILL FOLLOW LATER.

(INTERNAL)

MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION MDE 13/15/88, 13 SEPTEMBER 1988

DRS AHMED DANESH AND BORSU BAGHERI IRAN

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS CONCERNED FOR DRS AHMED DANESH AND BORSU BAGHERI, TWO PHYSICIANS ACCUSED OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE BANNED TUDEH (COMMUNIST) PARTY WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN EVIN PRISON IN THE CAPITAL TEHRAN. THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN A NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS OF PRISONERS PROMINENT WITHIN OPPOSITION GROUPS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY OF DRS DANESH AND BAGHERI.

DR BAGHERI WAS ARRESTED IN EARLY 1982 AND WHILE IN EVIN PRISON IS REPORTED TO HAVE PROVIDED MEDICAL CARE TO A NUMBER OF PRISONERS SUBJECTED TO TORTURE. DR DANESH IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN 1983. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE WRITTEN AN OPEN LETTER TO AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI, A LEADING CLERICAL FIGURE WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE SUCCESSOR TO AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. THE LETTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE CIRCULATED BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE IRAN.

IN THE LAST MONTH IN IRAN THERE HAS BEEN AN ESCALATING NUMBER OF POLITICAL EXECUTIONS WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY STILL CONTINUING. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE EXECUTED ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S MOJAHEDINE ORGANIZATION OF IRAN (PMOI), BUT ABOUT 20 SUPPORTERS OF OTHER POLITICAL OPPOSITION GROUPS, INCLUDING THE TUDEH PARTY, ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. FOLLOWING AN INCURSION INTO IRAN FROM IRAQ BY MEMBERS OF THE PMOI-LED NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY BETWEEN 24 AND 26 JULY, THE IRANIAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT 15 PMOI SUPPORTERS HAD BEEN EXECUTED ON 5 AUGUST. PICTURES OF PUBLIC HANGINGS APPEARED IN THE IRANIAN NATIONAL PRESS. OTHER EXECUTIONS ARE SINCE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE BOTH PUBLICLY AND WITHIN EVIN AND OTHER PRISONS.

THERE IS FURTHER CONCERN AT A RECENTLY-IMPOSED BAN ON FAMILY VISITS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN EVIN PRISON AND ELSEWHERE WHICH HAS FUELLED SPECULATION THAT HUNDREDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS MAY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY POLITICAL EXECUTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE APPARENT ESCALATION IN NUMBERS.

REPORTS RECENTLY RECEIVED INDICATE THAT BOTH DR BAGHERI AND DR DANESH ARE IN ILL-HEALTH. ALTHOUGH NO PRECISE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE, DR DANESH IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND SINCE RETURNED TO EVIN PRISON. THERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT DR BAGHERI MAY BE IN ILL-HEALTH AS A RESULT OF TORTURE, BUT THIS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FEARS THAT DRS DANESH AND BAGHERI COULD BE AT RISK OF EXECUTION, EXECUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE MENTIONED IN YOUR APPEALS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTION IS TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND APPEALS SHOULD MAKE GENERAL ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE TWO MEN. PLEASE SEND LETTERS, EXPRESS LETTERS AND TELEGRAMMES IN YOUR PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY WITHOUT MENTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. THIS ACTION IS INTERNAL AND NO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CASES.

LETTERS SHOULD: - NOTE THAT BOTH DR DANESH AND DR BAGHERI WERE REPORTED TO BE IN ILL-HEALTH RECENTLY AND SEEK INFORMATION ON THEIR PRESENT STATE OF HEALTH

- POLITELY STATE THAT YOU ARE SEEKING INFORMATION ON THEIR CURRENT LEGAL STATUS AND ASK WITH WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN CHARGED AND WHAT SENTENCES THEY RECEIVED

- NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RESTRICTION ON FAMILY VISITS TO PRISONERS HELD IN EVIN PRISON AND ELSEWHERE, AND SEEK ASSURANCES THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR ILL-HEALTH, BOTH DR DANESH AND DR BAGHERI WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO VISITS FROM THEIR FAMILIES

ADDRESSES

HIS EXCELLENCY
DR HASSAN EBRAHIM HABIBI
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
PARK-E SHAHR
TEHRAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

HIS EXCELLENCY
DR ALI REZA MARANDI
MINISTER OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
TEHRAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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