

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 183/99 (MDE 13/32/99, 23 December 1999) - Death Penalty / Flogging

IRANMorteza Amini Moqaddam (m)

Hamed Nazari (m)

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On 3 January 2000, Morteza Amini Moqaddam narrowly escaped being hanged after the father of the man he was found guilty of murdering appealed for clemency.

The Azad newspaper reported that Morteza Amini Moqaddam was brought to the site of the execution at the scheduled time but that after the death sentence was read out and the noose placed over his head, the father of the victim, present to initiate the death sentence, asked the judicial officials present to grant him clemency. Morteza Amini Moqaddam reportedly stood with the noose over his head for around half an hour while his fate was decided.

*Associated Press* later reported the father of the deceased as having said: "When I saw his hands cuffed behind him and the noose around his neck and everyone was waiting for my order, I thought that...if this boy is dead, it will not bring back my son."

The father was apparently applauded by the crowd and hoisted to shoulder-height by a number of young people. About 3000 people had turned up to witness the hanging.

Morteza Amini Moqaddam has since been transferred to Qasr prison while the judicial authorities decide his sentence. Latest reports indicate that he may not yet be 18 years old.

On 3 January, the Azad newspaper reported that Morteza Amini Moqaddam had expressed his regret to the family of the deceased, acknowledging his past errors and vowing to be a "useful individual to society until the end of his life".

Morteza Amini Moqaddam was sentenced to death on 16 December 1999 after being found guilty of murdering Hadi Mohebbi.

It is not known if the sentence of 74 lashes passed on Hamed Nazari, charged in connection with the same case, has been carried out.

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required.**