

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/03/00

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Further information on UA 133/99 (MDE 13/11/99, 8 June 1999) - Legal concern/
Possible Death Penalty

IRANNavid Balazadeh, 16

Nejat Beroukhim, 35

Farhad Seleh, 30

Shahrokh Paknahad, 29

Ramin Farzam, 35

Farzad Kashi, 30

Faramarz Kashi, 34 (brother of above)

Aasher Zadmehr (aka Shekasteh Band), 48

Nasser Yaghoub Levy Haim (Leveeim), 45

Javeed Beit Yaghoub, 40

Ramin Nemati, possibly 22

Danny Tefileen, possibly 28

Omid Tefileen, possibly 25 (brother of above)

According to press reports quoting members of the Jewish community in Iran, Navid Balazadeh, Nejat Beroukhim and Omid Tefileen were released on bail yesterday pending trial. Hossein Mir-Mohammad Sadeqi, a spokesman for the judiciary, was reported to have stated (without identifying anyone by name) that the charges against those who were released on bail were "lighter than the others" and that this was why they were released.

He is also reported to have said that the trial of all 13 people named above would commence in the next few weeks in Shiraz, and would be open to journalists and the public. Recent press reports have quoted the authorities as saying that the 13 have been granted access to family members.

The 13 were arrested in March 1999, accused of spying for Israel and the US. A conviction for espionage carries the death penalty in Iran.

We will keep the UA network informed of any developments. No further action is required at this time.