

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

8 April 1993

IRAN: Salim Saberniah, aged 30

Mustafa Ghaderi, aged 38

Amnesty International fears that Salim Saberniah, and Mustafa Ghaderi are at imminent risk of execution. According to information received by the organization, the two men were sentenced to death by the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tabriz, and their sentences confirmed by the Supreme Court of Iran on 21 March 1993. They were reportedly convicted of "activities against the Islamic Republic" as alleged members of the Kurdish opposition group Komala. They are currently being held in Tabriz Prison.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports Salim Saberniah and Mustafa Ghaderi were both arrested in Piranshahr, in late 1990 as they were allegedly attempting to cross the border into Turkey. They were both held in Oroumiyeh Prison until late 1992, after which they were transferred to Tabriz Prison. They were tried by the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tabriz, under Articles 183, 185 and 186 of the Islamic Penal Code of Iran, following which they were sentenced to death. Reportedly they were allowed access to a lawyer who appealed against their sentences: however the appeal was unsuccessful and the Supreme Court of Iran confirmed the death sentences on 21 March 1993.

Amnesty International opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization is seriously concerned at the continuing high number of executions in Iran: during 1992 Amnesty International recorded over 330 executions, which includes 140 political executions reported by unofficial sources.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing regret at the reported death sentences passed on Salim Saberniha and Mustafa Ghaderi, and urging that the sentences be commuted;
- seeking information about their trial procedures and the precise charges for which they were convicted;

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Hojatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency

Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Rafsanjani, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR (marked for the attention of
President Rafsanjani)

Salutation: Your Excellency

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2) His Excellency Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Head of the Judiciary
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR; 213113 PRIM IR (marked for the attention of
the Interior Minister)

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency
Hojatoleslam Abdollah Noori
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Dr Fatemi Avenue
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Interior Minister Noori, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR (marked for the attention of
the Interior Minister)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
Dr Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue
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 20 May 1993.

