

Public

AI Index: MDE 13/05/00
Distrib: PG/SC

To: Health professionals
From: Medical Office / Middle East Program
Date: 2 March 2000

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Akbar Mohammadi
IRAN

Key words: death penalty / ill-health / torture / medical care / unfair trial

Summary

Amnesty International is concerned at the torture during detention and sentencing to death after an unfair trial of Akbar Mohammadi. The organization believes him to be in ill health and is urging that his death sentence be commuted and that he receives all necessary medical care.

Recommended Actions

Appeals are requested from health professionals to the addresses below:

- introducing yourself as a concerned health professional and/or member of Amnesty International's health professional network
- urging the authorities to commute the death sentence against Akbar Mohammadi immediately, and, if he has been charged with a recognisably criminal offence, seeking information on the laws under which these charges were brought;
- asking what examinations and diagnosis of AM's health have been made
- seeking assurances that Akbar Mohammadi is given access to adequate medical care as provided for by international human rights standards such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners [Article 22]

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 25 April 2000, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

ADDRESSES

Leader of the Islamic Republic
His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

President
His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Head of the Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri 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
Faxes: + 98 21 204 0541

Sa'id Neshat
c/o the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
P.O. Box 16765-911
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

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MEDICAL CONCERN

**Akbar Mohammadi
IRAN**

Akbar Mohammadi, a 29-year-old student, who was sentenced to death in September 1999 after an unfair trial, has reportedly had his sentence upheld by the Supreme Court, and may face imminent execution. His sentence can only be commuted by Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose position is unaffected by the recent general election in Iran.

He has reportedly been tortured in detention by suspension by the arms and the whipping of the soles of his feet. He subsequently suffered from blood in his urine. He is believed to have undertaken a hunger strike along with other prisoners.

According to press reports, Akbar Mohammadi wrote a letter to judiciary chief Mahmud Hashemi-Shahrudi. In this letter which was published in some Iranian newspapers, he stated that he had been hit with an electric cable and "violently beaten". He was referred to hospital by the prison doctor, but was not taken to hospital.

Akbar Mohammadi was sentenced to death after a trial by Tehran's Revolutionary Court, in connection with student demonstrations in July 1999. Two other students, Ahmad Batebi and Ali Shafei, were sentenced to death with him, but according to recent reports in the newspapers *Fath* (Victory) and *Asr-e-Azadegan* (Era of the Free), their sentences have been commuted to 10 and two and a half years' imprisonment respectively. Amnesty International remains concerned that all three were sentenced after secret trials at special courts whose procedures fall short of minimum international standards for fair trial.

Amnesty International has received reports that Akbar Mohammadi is now suffering very poor health, possibly including kidney failure, though AI does not have full details of his current state of health. The organization is seeking details of his current situation and asking for reassurances that he will receive all necessary examinations, diagnosis and treatment. AI is further urging that his sentence be commuted and that he be granted a re-trial conforming to international standards for fair trial.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Akbar Mohammadi is the brother of Manuchehr Mohammadi, a leading member of *Anjoman-e Daneshjuyan va Daneshamukhtegan Melli* (National Association of Students and Graduates), who was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in connection with the student demonstrations. Amnesty International is concerned that a large number of those arrested for their involvement in the demonstrations are still detained without charge or trial.

The peaceful student demonstrations of July 1999 were against new laws curbing press freedom and the closure of the daily newspaper *Salam*. Members of the vigilante student group *Ansar-e Hezbollah* who attacked the demonstrators were joined by members of the security forces, resulting in at least one death and serious injuries to scores of students.