

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/005/2003

21 February 2003

Further Information on UA 49/03 (MDE 13/003/2003, 19 February 2003) Death penalty

IRAN

Killed - Sasan Al-e Kena'n (m), aged 37

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Amnesty International has learned that Sasan Al-e Kena'n was hanged at Sanandaj prison in Kordestan province, western Iran, at 4am on 19 February.

Several days earlier Sasan Al-e Kena'n's mother had visited the capital Tehran to seek a meeting with a visiting delegation of the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), at which she reportedly intended to raise the case of her son's arrest and sentencing.

According to reports, she arrived at Sanandaj prison to visit her son after 10pm on 19 February and was told to go to the judiciary's local offices. There she learned that Sasan Al-e Kena'n had been executed earlier that morning. She was told not to make a "fuss" and to bury him quickly.

Sasan Al-e Ken'an was reportedly buried at 2am on 20 February, in the Behesht-e Mohammadi cemetery in Sanandaj.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic, Kurdish, Persian or your own language:**

- expressing dismay at the execution of Sasan Al-e Ken'an;
- stating that Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences but strongly opposes the death penalty as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- reminding the authorities that the death penalty is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party;
- noting that Sasan Al-e Kena'n did not face charges that involved "intentional crimes with lethal or other extremely grave consequences", limits to the death penalty set out in the UN's "Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty", which are intended to limit the use of the death penalty.
- urging the authorities to urgently review sentencing procedures in connection with charges of *moharebeh ba khoda* ('enmity with God'), with a view to bringing them in line with international standards as set out in the of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party.

**APPEALS TO:**

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Faxes: + 98 21 649 5880 / 21 774 2228 (ask fax to be forwarded to Ayatollah Khamenei)**

**Email: webmaster@wilayah.org; (on the subject line write: For the attention of the office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

President

His Excellency, Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** President Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Fax:** + 98 21 649 5880  
**Email:** khatami@president.ir  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegram:** Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Email:** irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (This is the Public Relations Office. Please ask for your message to be forwarded to the Head of the Judiciary)  
**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

**Telegrams:** Foreign Affairs Minister, Tehran, Iran  
**Faxes:** + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**