

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/007/2003

3 March 2003

Further Information on UA 69/02 (MDE 13/005/2002, 6 March 2002) Torture/Imminent execution

IRAN **12 Kurdish minority rights activists, including 11 supporters of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) and one supporter of Komala, the Kurdistan section of the Communist Party in Iran (CPI)**
Five Arab minority rights activists

According to information published by the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) six people, all former members or supporters of the KDPI, were executed between 7 and 13 October 2002. They included four of those named in the original UA. Amnesty International has no information regarding any charges or legal proceedings faced by any of the six individuals.

Reportedly executed are: Muhammad Sharverani, who had been sentenced to death in 2000; Khaled Shoghi, who was reportedly forcibly returned from Turkey, and arrested and tortured in 1997; Saleh Goudarzi, who was sentenced to death in 1999, and Jalil Zeva'i, who was reportedly tortured prior to his execution. Also executed were Hamzeh Ghaderi, and an unidentified woman, possibly related to Hamzeh Ghaderi.

There is no new information regarding the others named in the original UA: Khaled Faraidouni, Nader Afani, Hasan Mahmoudi, Kheder Viesi, Rasul Abdollahpour, Anvar Alizadeh, Mohammad Esmailzadeh or Esmaili, Mohammad Mehdi Zaliye, and the five Arab men, Fadhil Muqaddam, Rahim Sawari, Amir Sa'idi, Hashem Bawi and 'Abbas Sherhani.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The KDPI seeks autonomy for Iranian Kurdistan and states that it rejects all acts of terrorism and...planting bombs in public places. The Kurds and Arabs are two of Iran's ethnic minority groups. The increased reports of executions in the Iranian province of Kordestan and reports of mass arrests in the province of Khuzestan may be rooted to several factors notably the apparently increased security measures implemented in both areas in line with growing political tension over possible military action in neighbouring Iraq. For example, on 5 November 2002 two men, Mostafa Jula and Ali Kak Jalil, both former members of Komala, a Kurdish political organization affiliated to the Communist Party of Iran (CPI), were reportedly executed in the city of Marivan. They were reportedly neither questioned nor tried. Most recently, on 2 March 2003 Mohammad Golabi, a member of Komala, was reportedly executed by hanging. No information about the charges or his trial are known. There are widespread fears that these executions are being used to frighten the population.

Amnesty International recorded 113 executions in Iran in 2002, although the true figure may be much higher. The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Iran is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 6 of which states that in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes. Under Article 14 (5), those convicted have the right to appeal against death sentences.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French, Kurdish, Arabic or your own language:

- expressing grave concern that the death sentences have been carried out against Muhammad Sharverani, Khaled Shoghi Saleh Goudarzi , Jalil Zeva'i, Hamzeh Ghaderi, and an unidentified woman; and those against Mohammad Golabi and reportedly Mostafa Jula, Ali Kak Jalil;
- seeking clarification of the circumstances surrounding the execution of the individuals named above and details of their trial proceedings, including the specific charges against them;
- 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;
- calling for the immediate clarification of the whereabouts of Khaled Faraidouni, Nader Afani, Hasan Mahmoudi, Kheder Viesi, Rasul Abdollahpour, Anvar Alizadeh, Mohammad Esmailzadeh or Esmaili, Mohammad Mehdi Zaliye, and the five Arab men, Fadhil Muqaddam, Rahim Sawari, Amir Sa'idi, Hashem Bawi and Abbas Sherhani and any others that are detained;
- asking to be given details of their trial proceedings, including the specific charges against them, and enquiring if they have been allowed to appeal against their convictions and sentences, as guaranteed by Article 14 (5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- seeking assurances that all detainees are treated humanely and are given prompt and regular access to relatives, lawyers and medical attention as necessary.

APPEALS TO:

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

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

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

Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran
Faxes: + 98 21 879 6671 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")
Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed
Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran
E-mail: khatami@president.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e
Mesri Av
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

Head of the Judiciary

COPIES 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 14 April 2003.