

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: MDE 13/08/94  
Distr: UA/SC**

**12 August 1994**

**Further information on UA 107/93 (MDE 13/09/93, 8 April 1993) and follow-ups:  
MDE 13/09/93, 6 September 1993 & MDE 13/06/94, 20 May 1994 - Death Penalty**

**IRAN:Salim Saberniah, aged 31  
Mustafa Ghaderi, aged 29**

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Amnesty International has received reports that the execution of Salim Saberniah and Mustafa Ghaderi may be imminent.

According to a letter from Dr Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Salim Saberniah and Mustafa Ghaderi "having been tried according to the due process of law, were given death sentences that sadly enough cannot be changed, particularly because the legal rights of families of martyrs who have been murdered by them are at stake. According to the law, if those families pardon them, then it would be possible to seek amnesty for them, but under the circumstances, I am afraid, we cannot do very much to help them".

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases because it believes it to be the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life guaranteed by Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization does not condone crimes of violence but stresses that empirical evidence has failed to establish that the death penalty is a more effective deterrent to crime than other punishments.

Amnesty International is concerned that in Iran the death penalty is frequently imposed on political opposition suspects and others and that trial procedures by Islamic Revolutionary Courts fall far short of international standards for fair trial. In political cases, trials are usually held in secret, often lasting only a few minutes; the detainee has no access to legal counsel at any stage and is denied the right of appeal both against the conviction and the sentence.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- urging that the death sentences be commuted;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party.

**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**

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 Justice Minister)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) His Excellency  
 Mohammad Ali Besharati Jahromi  
 Minister of Interior  
 Ministry of Interior  
 Dr Fatemi Avenue  
 Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

**Telegrams: Interior Minister Besharati Jahromi, Tehran, Iran**  
**Telexes: 214231 MITI IR, 213113 PRIM IR (marked for the attention of the Interior Minister) the**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Dr Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani  
 Chairman of the Human Rights Committee  
 Imam Khomeini Avenue  
 Tehran  
 Islamic Republic of Iran

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 23 September 1994.