

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/10/91

Distr: UA/SC

20 September 1991

Further information on UA 248/90 (MDE 13/10/90, 15 June 1990) and follow-ups MDE 13/10/90, (27 June 1990), MDE 13/1/90, (13 July 1990), MDE 13/02/91, (18 January 1991), MDE 13/07/91, (29 April 1991), MDE 13/08/91 (23 July 1991) and MDE 13/09/91, (28 August 1991) - Prisoners of Conscience/Fear of Torture/Unfair trial/Health Concern/Fear of torture (new concern):

Iran:Ali Ardalan

Dr Habibollah Davaran

Abdolali Bazargan

Khosrow Mansourian

Akbar Zarinehbab

Mohammad Tavassoli Hojati

Hashem Sabbaghian

Nezameddin Movahed

Abol Fazl Mir Shams Shahshahani

Amnesty International is concerned at recent reports regarding the situation of nine prisoners of conscience, arrested in June 1990 for writing a critical open letter to President Rafsanjani, who were recently brought to trial. The reports indicate that the nine prisoners have, in addition to prison terms, been sentenced to between 10 and 30 lashes. It is not known whether these have been carried out.

These prisoners have now been informed of their sentences: Hashem Sabbaghian was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment, Mohammad Tavassoli Hojati and Abdolali Bazargan were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and the remaining six were given three-year prison sentences.

Amnesty International considers flogging as a judicial punishment which constitutes torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Some of the nine prisoners are in their seventies, and all are believed to be in poor health.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of the nine as prisoners of conscience;

- urging that the nine prisoners not be subjected to flogging and that they be humanely treated.

APPEALS TO:

1.

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency

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

2.

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

Your Excellency

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

3.

Hojatoleslam Ali Fallahian
Minister of Information
Ministry of Information
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Minister

Telegrams: Information Minister, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 EXT IR; 212600 EXT IR; 214242 EXT IR
(please forward to the Minister of Information)

COPIES TO:

H E Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh Abdolmajid Avenue
Kooshk-e Mesri
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 November 1991.