

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 13/034/2003

03 October 2003

Further Information on EXTRA 01/03 (MDE 13/001/2003, 8 January 2003) Fear of imminent amputation

IRAN **Reza Nazaarit (m), aged 22**
 Mohammaad Safaavi (m), aged 22
 Mehdi Boyeri (m), aged 23 - released
 Hoseyn Amiri (m), aged 23 - released

Mehdi Boyeri and Hoseyn Amiri have reportedly been released on bail. Amnesty International has no information on when they are due to appear in court. It is not known if they are still under sentence of cross-amputation or any other form of punishment. Reza Nazaarit and Mohammaad Safaavi are reportedly still at risk of imminent cross amputation.

The four men were arrested in Shiraz, southwestern Iran, on 23 June 2002. Reza Nazaarit and Mohammaad Safaavi were reportedly held in solitary confinement for 45 days prior to their trial. On 9 August 2002, a Revolutionary Court in Shiraz sentenced the four men to the amputation of the right hand and left foot on charges of "armed uprising against the Islamic regime" and theft.

Reza Nazaarit and Mohammaad Safaavi appealed against their sentence, but it was upheld by the Supreme Court on 8 March 2003. They are being detained in Shiraz prison until their sentence is carried out, which could be at any time. The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Sayed >Ali Khamenei, is the only authority able to commute their sentence at this stage.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has recorded six amputations since the beginning of 2003, although the true figure may be significantly higher. Punishment by amputation is often imposed in connection with theft.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of all governments to bring to justice those found guilty of a recognizably criminal offence. However, the organization fundamentally opposes the cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment of judicial amputation and considers it to be a form of torture.

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

- expressing concern that Reza Nazaarit and Mohammaad Safaavi are at risk of imminent amputation of the right hand and left foot;
- urging the authorities to commute the sentence of cross-amputation against Reza Nazaarit and Mohammaad Safaavi immediately;
- seeking details of the exact charges and trial proceedings against Mehdi Boyeri and Hoseyn, including details of any appeal against their conviction;
- if they are still under the sentence of cross amputation, calling for the authorities to commute their sentence;
- urging the judicial authorities to implement a moratorium on the use of amputations, which is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment prohibited under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Iran is a state party, with a view to its eventual abolition.

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

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

Telegram: His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: 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: His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: khatami@president.ir (please resend your message if it does not get through the first time)
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 the Judiciary, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: + 98 21 879 6671 (unreliable; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")
Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.com (Public Relations Office of Judiciary; please mark for the attention of HE Ayatollah Shahrudi)
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

Fax: + 98 21 390 1999 (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.