



**amnesty international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
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United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

PM000001

**URGENT ACTION**

AI Index: MDE 13/01/88  
Distr: UA/SC

Please organize up to 10 appeals per section.

UA 32/88

Death Penalty

2 February 1988

IRAN: 67 prisoners sentenced to death  
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Amnesty International has received reports that 67 prisoners, alleged to be members of different political groups, have been sentenced to death in Iran. They are said to be held in different prisons, including Evin and Gohar Dasht.

On 15 January 1988 Amnesty International sent a telex to Ayatollah Ardebili, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Judicial Council, asking for clarification of a report that these 67 death sentences had been sent to the Council for approval, and urging that if so they be commuted. No reply was received. Amnesty International has now heard that the sentences have been approved, and fears that those concerned may be in imminent danger of execution.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- requesting clarification of the above report, and details of the charges brought against the 67 accused;
- urging that any death sentences against them be commuted and that no further executions take place in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency the President  
Hojatoleslam Seyed Ali Khamenei  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khamenei,  
Tehran, Iran

His Excellency Ayatollah Abdolkarim  
Musavi Ardebili  
Chief Justice and President of the  
Supreme Judicial Council  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Chief Justice Ayatollah  
Musavi Ardebili, Justice Ministry,  
Tehran, Iran

Telexes for both officials: 214231 miti ir; 213113 prim ir, marked  
for the attention of ...

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Some appeals may be sent in a personal or professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 March 1988.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
  - Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."
  - Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
  - Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."
- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.