



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DD
United Kingdom

COPY

**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 56

Death Penalty

26 February 1988

IRAN: Ajabnaz KESHAVARZ

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It was reported in the Iranian newspaper Keyhan on 17 February 1988 that a court in Shiraz has passed a sentence of stoning to death on a woman named Ajabnaz Keshavarz.

She had been convicted of adultery and murdering her husband, together with an accomplice whose name and sentence were not mentioned. The sentence was to be carried out in public in the town of Marvdasht, near Shiraz, "very soon".

Amnesty International has not recorded a case of stoning to death in Iran since October 1987. No other cases were recorded that year, but in 1986 the organization recorded the executions by stoning of six men and two women. Amnesty International believes that stoning is a particularly cruel, inhuman and degrading form of the death penalty, designed to cause the victim the maximum amount of suffering before death.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send courteously-worded telexes/telegrams/airmail letters to the authorities listed below, urging them:

- to commute the sentence of stoning passed on Ajabnaz Keshavarz;
- to replace all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment with other penalties consistent with international human rights standards; - to commute all death sentences outstanding in Iran.

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*.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar
Hashemi Rafsanjani
Speaker of the Islamic
Consultative Assembly
Imam Khomeini Avenue
Tehran,
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Speaker Consultative
Assembly, Tehran, Iran

Telexes: 212450 ext ir
212600 ext ir
214242 ext ir
marked for the attention of the
Speaker, Consultative Assembly

H.E. Dr Hassan Ebrahim Habibi
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran

Copies of appeals should be sent to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

If possible please organize appeals from MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS in your country. It would be good if some appeals could be sent in a personal as well as a professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 April 1988.

H.E. Ayatollah Abdulkarim
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: 214231 miti ir
213113 prim ir marked for
marked for the attention of His
Excellency, The Chief Justice

— 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.