

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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To: All sections (for information)
Coordinators for the 1989 death penalty campaign
~~Death penalty coordinators~~
Campaign coordinators (for information)
Iran coordinators (for information)

From: Campaign and Membership Department (death penalty team)

Date: 13 January 1989

1989 CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY: COUNTRY APPEALS SERIES

CIRCULAR NO. 8: PRE-CAMPAIGN DEATH PENALTY ACTION ON IRAN

(January - April 1989)

This circular is for use by death penalty coordinators and the person(s) responsible for coordinating AI's 1989 campaign against the death penalty. It is primarily for action by large and medium-sized sections.

Summary

Since July 1988 Amnesty International (AI) has recorded the names of 900 political prisoners, real and alleged members or supporters of many opposition factions, executed in Iran. Among them are prisoners of conscience, prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment, or whose terms of imprisonment had expired without their being released, and prisoners who had never been tried or sentenced.

During the 1989 campaign against the death penalty Iran will be featured as a Category A country selected for special emphasis. The IS considers it important to continue its work on the death penalty in Iran with a view to feeding this action into the overall country strategy for Iran during the campaign. The aim of this action is to put pressure on the Iranian authorities not to execute the individuals named in this action and to bring an end to the present wave of political executions. If the IS receives more names of individuals at risk of execution they will be sent direct to the 1989 campaign coordinators and death penalty coordinators for forwarding to the groups.

Distribution

This INTERNAL circular is being distributed as indicated above.

Recommended actions

1. Coordinators are asked to find up to 20 groups to participate in this action and where possible, for reasons of continuity, these groups should be asked to continue their work on Iran when the 1989 campaign is launched.

2. Coordinators should divide the names assigned to your section among the groups ensuring that every name is included in at least one appeal from your section. Several names can appear in each letter.

3. Groups should be asked to take action as soon as possible.

4. Groups should be given a copy of the document IRAN: Political Executions (AI Index: MDE 13/29/88) sent to sections in December 1988 (a copy is attached for coordinators for the 1989 campaign and death penalty coordinators only) along with the INTERNAL recommended actions for groups and the list of names for appeal assigned to their group.

5. The action is primarily for action by large and medium-sized sections. Any other section wishing to participate should send one letter to each address naming one or several of the prisoners.

6. The action is not for action by the Israeli Section. However, the US section may participate.