



# amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

# URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Execution

22 December 1988

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Since July, Amnesty International has recorded the names of hundreds of political prisoners, members or supporters of many opposition factions, executed or in danger of execution 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. The organization has now received reports that the 21 prisoners named above are among those at risk of execution.

All 21 are supporters of the banned People's Mojahedine Organization of Iran and most are in their 20's. Several are serving prison terms and a number of them were recently re-arrested, having earlier been released on the expiry of their sentences. All are believed to be under threat of execution. It is not known whether any of them have been re-tried and sentenced to death. Amnesty International has a consistent body of evidence that trials of political prisoners in Iran are summary and unfair, often lasting only a few minutes. In political cases, the accused has no defence counsel of any kind, and no right to call witnesses in his or her defence. There is no right of appeal against conviction or sentence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that any death sentence passed on any of the above be commuted, and all executions in Iran be brought to an immediate halt;
- expressing deep regret at the very large number of executions which have taken place in Iran since July, and asking for details of the procedures under which those executed were tried and convicted.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Do NOT mention the People's Mojahedine Organization in your appeals, some of which should be in a personal or professional capacity.**

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*.

PM000042

APPEALS TO:

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: Justice Minister, Tehran, Iran  
Telexes: 214231 miti ir  
          213113 prim ir  
marked for attention Chief Justice

H.E. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani  
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly  
Majles-e Shura-y-e Eslami  
Imam Khomeini Avenue  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Speaker, Majles-e Shura, Tehran, Iran  
Telexes: 212450 ext ir  
          212600 ext ir  
          214242 ext ir

COPIES TO:

H.E. Ali Akbar Velayati  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Sheik 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 February 1989.

— 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.