



amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Execution

6 January 1989

IRAN: Zohreh GHAENI

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Amnesty International has received reports that Zohreh Ghaeni may be in danger of execution. She is the wife of Kiumars Zarshenas, who was the subject of UA appeals from 1985 onwards (UA 212/85), and who was executed last year. Both are alleged members of the People's Fedaiyan Organization (Majority). She was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in 1983 or 1984, and recent information indicates that she is held in isolation in Tehran's Evin Prison. It is not known whether she has been re-tried and sentenced to death.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

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: Telexes/telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that any death sentence passed on Zohreh Ghaeni 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 Fedaiyan Organization (Majority) in your appeals, some of which should be in a personal or professional capacity.

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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. 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

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

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 17 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.