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FURTHER REPORTS OF AMPUTATIONS

IRAN

Further to a reported case of amputation and flogging on 10 April 1988, Amnesty International has now received news of two more cases of amputation having taken place that month and of another at the end of March 1988.

The newspaper Jomhuri-e Eslami reported on 18 April 1988 that a man identified by the surname Jabbari had some of his fingers amputated in public in the town of Esfahan, after being sentenced on seven counts of theft in the town of Qom.

Also on 18 April 1988 the newspaper Keyhan reported that a man by the name of Mahmoud Heidari had the four fingers of his right hand amputated publicly in Arak on 17 April after committing ten crimes of theft. Mahmoud Heidari's amputation is reported to have been performed by a special team of police apparently created to carry out amputations. In an interview with the Head of the Judicial Police published by Keyhan on 24 April 1988 reference was made to a further amputation which had taken place towards the end of March in a public square in Tehran.

Amputation of the fingers of the right hand as punishment for repeated theft is provided for in Iranian legislation, based on Islamic law (Shari'a). Amnesty International holds amputation to be a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and thus prohibited internationally by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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