



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

10 November 1988

IRAN: Hamzeh MAHJOUR
Massoud ALLA'I KHASTOU

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Amnesty International has received a report that Hamzeh Mahjoub, held in Roodsar Prison, and Massoud Alla'i Khastou, held in Evin Prison in Tehran, are in imminent danger of execution.

Massoud Alla'i Khastou was arrested in 1981, aged 17, and sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment reportedly for being a supporter of the People's Mojahedine Organisation of Iran. He is alleged to have suffered torture and prolonged periods of solitary confinement during his imprisonment.

Hamzeh Mahjoub was arrested in 1982, aged 16, also allegedly for supporting the Mojahedine. He has never been tried or sentenced.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the case of Iran it is particularly concerned by the lack of provisions for a fair trial in political cases, and the lack of any procedure for prisoners sentenced to death to appeal against conviction or sentence. Amnesty International has also received recent reports of prisoners apparently having their sentences of imprisonment changed to the death sentence, in contravention of Article 14(7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has ratified.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters

- asking for details of the charges brought against Massoud Alla'i Khastou and the procedures under which he was tried;
- asking for details of the charges against Hamzeh Mahjoub and whether he has been tried; if he has not, urging that he be promptly given a fair trial or otherwise released;
- urging that any death sentence passed on them be commuted, and that if either is a prisoner of conscience held for the non-violent expression of his beliefs he be immediately and unconditionally released.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do NOT MENTION THE PEOPLE'S MOJAHEDINE ORGANISATION OF IRAN IN YOUR APPEALS.

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. Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ali
Khamenei
President of the Islamic Republic
The Presidency
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khamenei,
Tehran

Telexes: 214231 miri ir;
213113 prim ir;
attention of President Khamenei

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,
Justice Ministry, Tehran

Telexes: 214231 miti ir;
213113 prim ir;
attention of Chief Justice

COPIES TO:

- H.E. Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran
- diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Note: Some appeals should be sent in a personal or professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 December 1988.

— 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.