



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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United Kingdom

**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 13/21/89
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Further information on UA 08/89 (MDE 13/02/89, 11 January) and follow-ups (MDE 13/07/89, 24 January, MDE 13/13/89, 15 March, and MDE 13/20/89, 24 August) - Death Penalty

IRAN: Political Prisoners Reportedly Executed as Drug Traffickers:

Place of Execution

Mohammad YOUNESSI	Hamedan
Mohammad Gholi EBRAHIMI	Rasht
Bizhan BIGLARI	Kermanshah
Bahram KAZEMI	Shiraz
Massoud SABET	Shiraz

Amnesty International has received reports that among the 79 victims executed on drug charges on 19 August 1989 there were some who have been identified as supporters of groups opposed to the government of Iran, (named above). They are said to have had no involvement with illegal drug trafficking, but to have been executed because of their political activities.

An unknown number of opposition activists and supporters are alleged to have been executed in previous mass executions under the pretext that they had been involved in drug smuggling. These include:

	<u>Place of Execution</u>	<u>Date of Execution</u>
Homayoun SOLATI	Tehran	Unknown
Shahrokh SHAMS	Assadabab, Hamedan	April 1989
Mehdi SABETI	Mashhad	18 July 1989

Amnesty International has been concerned for many years that political prisoners in Iran are not tried in accordance with international standards for fair trial. Following the wave of political executions in the second half of 1988 when Amnesty International received the names of over 1,700 victims, the organization is concerned that the Iranian Government may be seeking to disguise the killing of its political opponents by executing them as alleged drug traffickers.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing shock at the more than 1,200 executions publicly announced since the beginning of 1989;
- expressing concern over reports that political prisoners have been executed under the pretext that they were drug traffickers, despite evidence that they had not been involved in drug trafficking in any way;

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Telephone: 01-833 1771 Fax: 01-833 5100 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*.

- referring to the five people named above who were executed on 19 August, referring to reports that they were in fact political prisoners and requesting information about the offence of which they had been convicted;

- urging an end to all executions in Iran.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam
Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
President of the Islamic Republic
of Iran
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi
Head of the Judiciary
Ministry of Justice
Park-e-Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telexes: 214231 miti ir
213113 prim ir
marked for attention President
Rafsanjani

Telexes: 214231 miti ir
213113 prim ir
marked for attention Head Judiciary

COPIES TO:

H.E. Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sheikh 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 27 October 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.