

Doc_Number: GDE00021

URGENT ACTION

JUVENILE OFFENDER'S EXECUTION SCHEDULED

The execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi has been scheduled again in the city of Shiraz, southern Iran, and could take place as soon as 7 July. He is sentenced to death for a crime he allegedly committed while under the age of 18.

On 4 July 2010, the family of Mohammad Reza Haddadi were informed by judicial officials that they should visit their son for the last time before his execution takes place in the early hours of 7 July in Adelabad prison, Shiraz, in southern Iran. However, by 5 July, Mohammad Reza Haddadi's lawyer had not been officially informed of any scheduled execution and says that he was told that he would not be executed on 7 July. Nonetheless, he believes there is a significant risk his client may be executed in the very near future. Juvenile offenders have previously been executed without prior warning to their lawyers, though under Iranian law his lawyer should receive 48 hours' notice.

Mohammad Reza Haddadi was sentenced to death in 2004 for a murder he allegedly committed when he was 15. He is now around 22 years old. His death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court in July 2005. He was first scheduled for execution in October 2008, but it was stayed on the order of the Head of the Judiciary. His execution was then scheduled again on 27 May 2009 and 16 July 2009. There were further unconfirmed reports that he would be executed on 9 December 2009.

There is no further news of Naser Qasemi, who was also sentenced to death for a crime allegedly committed when he was under 18. Another juvenile offender, Reza Hejazi, was hanged in Esfahan prison on 19 August 2008.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Persian, Arabic, English, French or your own language:

v calling on the Iranian authorities to halt the execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi immediately, and commute his death sentence;

v reminding the authorities that Iran is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which prohibit the use of the death penalty against people convicted of crimes committed when they were under 18.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JULY, PREFERABLY BEFORE 7 JULY:

Leader of the Islamic Republic
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, The
Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of
Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir;
via website: - <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter>
(English); <http://www.leader.ir/langs/fa/index.php?p=letter> (Persian)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Goveh Qazaiyeh
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of
Serah-e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: **Via website:**
<http://www.dadiran.ir/tabid/75/Default.aspx>
First starred box: first name; **second box:** family name; **third:** email address
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Director, Human Rights Headquarters of Iran
Mohammad Javad Larijani
Howzeh Riassat-e Goveh Ghazaiyeh
Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave., south of
Serah-e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 3390 4986
Email: bia.judi@yahoo.com (In the subject line: **FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani**)
Salutation: Dear Mr Larijani

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the ninth update of UA 71/08 (MDE 13/049/2008).

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mohammad Reza Haddadi was sentenced to death in 2004 for a murder he allegedly committed when he was 15. He confessed to the murder, but retracted the confession during his trial, saying he had claimed responsibility for the killing only because his two co-defendants had offered to give his family money if he did so. During the trial he said that he had not taken part in the murder. His co-defendants later supported Mohammad Reza Haddadi's claims of innocence, and withdrew their testimony that had implicated him. They were both over 18 years old at the time of the crime and received prison sentences. Mohammad Reza Haddadi's death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court in July 2005. He was first scheduled for execution in October 2008, but it was stayed on the order of the Head of the Judiciary. On 27 May 2009, the Head of the Judiciary halted the execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi, which was scheduled to take place that day in Adelabad prison in Shiraz. The Head of the Judiciary ordered Branch 17 of the Supreme Court to conduct a review of the case. Although no trial sessions were held, the execution was nevertheless scheduled again for 16 July 2009 but again not then carried out. Later, unconfirmed reports suggested that his execution had been scheduled for 9 December 2009.

Since 1990, Iran has executed at least 46 people convicted of crimes committed when they were under 18 years old. Eight of these executions were in 2008 and five in 2009. For example, Delara Darabi was executed on 1 May 2009 despite her having been given a two-month stay of execution by the Head of the Judiciary. Neither her parents nor her lawyers were notified before her execution, though under Iranian law her lawyer should receive 48 hours' notice. Behnoud Shojaee was executed on 11 October, for allegedly killing another youth when only 17 years old. His execution had previously been postponed six times. On 17 December 2009, Mosleh Zamani was executed. He was sentenced to death in 2006 for allegedly raping his girlfriend, a woman several years older than him, with whom he was allegedly having a relationship, when he was 17. His death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court in July 2007. He may not have had adequate legal representation. At least 135 juvenile offenders remain on death row in Iran.

The execution of juvenile offenders is prohibited under international law, including Article 6(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to which Iran is a state party.

In Iran a person convicted of murder has no right to seek pardon or commutation from the state, in violation of Article 6(4) of the ICCPR. The family of a murder victim have the right either to insist on execution, or to pardon the killer and receive financial compensation (diyeh).

For more information about executions of juveniles in Iran, please see Iran: The last executioner of children (MDE 13/059/2007), <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde130592007>.

Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/049/2008/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/120/2008/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/151/2008/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/048/2009/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/049/2009/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/070/2009/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/086/2009/en>,
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/126/2009/en> and
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/128/2009/en>

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