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AI Index: MDE 13/04/88
Distrib : PG/SC

To : W. Australian and Swedish medical groups
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 16 March 1988

LIMITED MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION

**Soraya Ali Mohamedi
IRAN**

Amnesty International is concerned for the welfare of Soraya Ali Mohamedi, a well-known political prisoner who has been held in Tehran's Evin prison for the last four years. She is reported to have gynaecological problems for which she is currently denied medical care.

Soraya is a member of the People's Fedayan Organization of Iran (PFOI - a political opposition group which is banned in Iran.) She is one of a group of PFOI prisoners for whom AI has issued urgent actions in the past believing them to be under threat of execution. Soraya is reported to have been sentenced to death in 1984 for her activities with the PFOI and her sentence later commuted, first to 15 years' imprisonment, and later to nine years. Sentencing of political prisoners in Iran is arbitrary. People who have been sentenced to death may be released if they are considered to have repented and, conversely, prisoners who received only short sentences may be imprisoned indefinitely and have in some cases been executed.

Soraya is reported to be seriously ill with what was described to AI as a gynaecological problem; it is not possible to obtain any clearer details at present. According to reports, she was promised release on the grounds of ill-health some months ago and she is believed to have been receiving medical attention in the prison.

In mid-February 1988, however, she participated in hunger-strikes led by female political prisoners. The strikes are reported to have been undertaken to call for improvements in the conditions of detention, including better food rations, newspapers in the prison and receipt of money from their families which, it is alleged, has been confiscated and diverted to the war effort by the prison authorities. Soraya is reported to have been beaten for having taken part in the hunger-strike and her promise of early release withdrawn. She is also now said to be denied medical attention despite a deterioration in her condition, and this has led to concern amongst fellow prisoners.

☎ 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

N.B. Letters should be sent in your personal professional capacity. No mention should be made of AI, nor of her alleged beating. The purpose of your letters is solely to draw attention to her medical problems. In making references to Soraya she should be described as a well-known political prisoner.

The Swedish and West Australian medical groups are each asked to write a maximum of three letters to each of the addresses below.

Letters should

- . refer to her reported medical problems, and
- . seek information on the nature and gravity of her problems and seek assurances that she has access to specialist medical attention

ADDRESSES

Dr Hassan Ebrahim Habibi
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr Ali Reza Marandi
Minister of Health
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

(Telex: 214231 MITI IR)