



**amnesty  
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
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INTERNAL

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To : Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East  
Date: 20 March 1989

## MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION

### Esmail Movassaghian ill-health and fear of execution IRAN

Amnesty International is seriously concerned by reports that Esmail Movassaghian, aged 76 and in poor health, was re-arrested in February 1989 after previous periods of imprisonment, and may be at risk of execution.

Esmail Movassaghian was first arrested, for political reasons, in March 1981. He subsequently escaped but was re-arrested in December that year and has been almost continuously in prison or under house arrest since. He is alleged to have been tortured during this first period of imprisonment; other members of his family were imprisoned and tortured in Iran at this time.

Esmail Movassaghian's state of health has given cause for concern for some time: he is reported to suffer from serious gastric and renal problems, partial paralysis in both legs and is almost completely blind. Amnesty International issued Urgent Actions on his behalf in 1983 and again in May 1986, after reports that he had been returned to prison after a period under surveillance at home, and was being denied hospital treatment which he urgently needed. In 1988 he was reported to have been released and allowed to live at home, still under surveillance. The reasons for his re-arrest in February this year are not known but Amnesty International believes them to be linked to his political affiliations.

Amnesty International has recorded the names of over 1200 political prisoners said to have been executed in Iran since the beginning of August 1988 and fears the true number may be considerably higher. (See Medical Action of 13 September 1988, AI Index MDE 13/15/88, and follow-up of 14 December 1988, AI Index MDE 13/30/88). Many of those executed had been imprisoned since 1981 and some were former prisoners re-arrested in the past few months. Esmail Movassaghian's re-arrest at this time raises fears that he too may be at risk of execution.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appeals are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below. Please write in your personal professional capacity; Amnesty International should not be mentioned, but publicity may be sought for the case through letters to medical journals, appeals from medical associations, etc.

☎ 01-833 1771 Telegams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 Fax: 01-833 5100 PM000072

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.

Letters to the Iranian authorities should

- ask for clarification of the reports that Esmail Movassaghian has been re-arrested and for details of any charges brought against him;
- express concern at his reported re-imprisonment in view of his age and ill-health and urge that he receive all medical attention necessary;
- urge that if he is being held solely for the non-violent expression of his political beliefs he be immediately and unconditionally released.

ADDRESSES

H.E. Ayatollah Hossein Montazeri  
Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran

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

Please send copies of your appeals to:

Dr Hadi Manafi  
Head of the Medical Council of Iran  
Ministry of Health  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.