



amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Execution

10 February 1989

IRAN: Zohreh GHAENI (see also UA 04/89)
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Amnesty International has received reports that a number of women political prisoners remain at risk of execution in Evin Prison, Tehran despite the amnesty recently announced for many political prisoners in Iran. The women are all said to be supporters of left wing opposition groups, the Tudeh Party and the People's Fedaiyan Organization of Iran (Majority). They are all serving prison terms, and many of them have been imprisoned for several years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since July 1988, Amnesty International has recorded the names of over 1,200 reported execution victims. The organization understands that during the ten days of celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic, the so called "ten day dawn", no executions were to take place. However, the organization fears that executions of political prisoners who remain in detention may resume after 11 February 1989. Among those executed between July 1988 and February 1989 were prisoners of conscience, political prisoners serving prison terms, or those whose sentences had expired but who remained in detention as well as prisoners who had never been tried or sentenced. It is unclear what, if any, judicial process was followed prior to the executions taking place. Amnesty International has long been concerned that political trials in Iran fall far short of international standards for a fair trial.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that any death sentence passed on the eight women named above be commuted, and that no more executions be carried out;
- welcoming the amnesty of many hundreds of political prisoners and the ten day suspension of executions, but regretting the very large numbers of executions which have taken place since July 1988.

NB: Do NOT mention the People's Fedaiyan Organization or the Tudeh Party in your appeals, some of which should be sent in your personal capacity.

PM000069

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. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly
Majles-e Shouray-e Eslami
Imam Khomeini Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Speaker, Majles-e Shoura, Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 212450 ext ir
212600 ext ir
214242 ext ir

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: Justice Ministry Tehran, Iran
Telexes: 214231 miti ir
213113 prim ir
marked for attention Chief Justice

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 28 March 1989.

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| <p>— 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.</p> <p>— 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:</p> <p>Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."</p> <p>Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."</p> <p>Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."</p> | <p>— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.</p> <p>— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.</p> <p>— 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.</p> <p>— 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.</p> |
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