



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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United Kingdom

**URGENT
ACTION**

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Death Penalty

2 September 1988

IRAN: Political executions

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Amnesty International condemns the political executions carried out in Iran during the last month, which are reportedly still continuing. It is concerned by the continuing ban on family visits to political prisoners in Evin Prison in Tehran and elsewhere which has fuelled speculation that hundreds of political prisoners may have been executed. The executions have reportedly been carried out predominantly on members and supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), but about 20 supporters of other political opposition groups are also reported to have been executed. Amnesty International does not have sufficient information to estimate the number of political executions, but it is deeply concerned by the apparent escalation.

Following the incursion by the PMOI-led National Liberation Army into Iran between 25 and 28 July 1988, small groups of alleged collaborators with and members of the PMOI were publicly executed in Kangavar, Bakhtaran and Islamebad-e Gharb. The Iranian National News Agency said that 15 PMOI supporters had been executed by 5 August, and pictures of public hangings appeared in the Iranian national press.

In a speech at Friday prayers in Tehran on 5 August Ayatollah Ardebili, the Chief Justice, hinted that many imprisoned PMOI supporters were at risk of execution when he said,

*"The judiciary is under very strong pressure from public opinion asking why we even put them (the PMOI) on trial, why some of them are jailed, and why all are not executed ...
The people say they should all be executed without exception."*

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the case of Iran it is particularly concerned by the lack of provisions for fair trial in political cases, and the lack of any procedure for prisoners sentenced to death to appeal against conviction or sentence.

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- calling for an immediate end to these political executions;
- expressing deep regret at the executions which have taken place, and asking for details of the procedures by which the sentences were passed and approved;
- urging the commutation of all outstanding death sentences and an end to executions in Iran.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. Ayatollah Abdolkarim
Musavi Ardebili
Chief Justice and President of
the Supreme Judicial Council
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Chief Justice,
Justice Ministry, Tehran, Iran

Telexes: 214231 miti ir;
213113 prim ir;
marked for the attention of the Chief Justice

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

Telegrams: Justice Minister
Tehran, Iran
Telexes: as for the Chief Justice,
marked for the attention of the
Minister of Justice

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iran in your country.

Note: some appeals should be sent in a personal or professional capacity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 October 1988.

— 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.