

PUBLIC

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19 December 2005

UA 320/05 Death Penalty/Fear of Imminent Execution

IRAN Hossein (m), aged 27

A man identified only as "Hossein", who was sentenced to death for murder, has had his appeal rejected by Branch 37 of the Supreme Court and is at imminent risk of execution. The Head of the Judiciary has the power to order a stay of execution and a review of the case.

Hossein was sentenced to *qisas* (retribution in kind) by Branch 71 of the Criminal Court in Tehran for the murder of a young man named Mehdi during a fight in September 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization has recorded 83 executions in Iran so far this year, although the true figure may be much higher.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Persian, English, Arabic or your own language:

- urging the authorities to commute the death sentence imposed on "Hossein"
- asking for details of his trial and any appeals, and of his legal representation;
- acknowledging that governments have a responsibility to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but stating your unconditional opposition to the death penalty, as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violation of the right to life.

APPEALS TO:

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Shoahada Street
Qom

Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 251 7 774 2228 (mark "FAO the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei")

**Email: istiftaa@wilayah.org
info@leader.ir**

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

**Email: irjpr@iranjudiciary.org (mark "Please forward to His Excellency Ayatollah Shahroudi")
iranjudiciary.org/feedback_en.html**

Fax: +98 21 8 879 6671

+98 21 8 6 640 4018

+98 21 8 6 640 4019

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of the Interior

Hojatoleslam Mustafa Purmohammadi

Ministry of the Interior

Dr Fatemi Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Speaker of Parliament

His Excellency Gholamali Haddad Adel

Majles-e Shoura-ye Eslami

Imam Khomeini Avenue,

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: + 98 21 6 646 1746

and to diplomatic representatives of Iran accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 January 2006.