



## COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM IN IRAN

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# Human Rights in Iran – August 2004

## Death sentences

### Man sentenced to public hanging

*Sharq daily, August 1* – The judicial system issued the death sentence of a man in Tehran.

### Six men in Mashad sentenced to death

*Jomhuri Islami daily, Aug. 2* – Six men were sentenced to execution, incarceration and forced residence in regions with bad weather. Some members of the gang intended to assassinate officials, contact espionage networks and take asylum in the US.

### Executions in Pol Dokhtar and Babol

*Iran daily, Aug. 3* – A man named Keyomarse Naseer Moqadas was hanged in Pol Dokhtar. Another 43-year-old man was sentenced to be hanged three times

### Execution in Qazvin

*Roshangari Website, Aug. 4* – On Tuesday Aug. 3, a 50-year-old man named Majid was sentenced to hanging upon order of the court judge. He was also sentenced to 70 lashes and paying a fine of one million rials

### Protests stopped execution of five

*INTV, Aug. 7* – On Thursday August 5, the Iranian government intended to hang six people in public in the city of Zahedan, but protests broke out among the outraged onlookers after the first execution and the other executions were not carried out. The young man executed was named Shah Bakhsh and he was 29 years old.



### **Man and women sentenced to death**

*Sharq daily, Aug. 8* – Death sentences were issued for a man and a woman in Islamshahr and Tehran. The young man sentenced to death in Tehran is Gol Mohammad, 19. The woman sentenced to death in Islamshahr is named Fatemeh.

### **Man hanged in public**

*Iran daily, Aug. 10* – A man named Hossein from Samirom, Isfahan Province, was yesterday hanged in the province of Bushehr.

### **Woman and 2 men sentenced to death**

*Iran daily, Aug. 9* - A woman and two men were sentenced to death in Varamin.

### **Man executed**

*Sharq daily, Aug. 12* – A young man named Mohammad was executed yesterday morning.

### **Youth sentenced to death**

*E'temad daily, Aug. 11* – A young boy named Maham was sentenced to death in Tehran's Criminal Court.

### **Man sentenced to 5 times hanging in public**

*Iran daily, Aug. 15* – Shahroodi, head of the Judiciary confirmed the sentence of five times hanging in public of a man in Tehran. This man's name is Alireza.

### **16 year old girl hanged in public**

*IranFocus website* – On Sunday, August 15, a 16-year-old girl in the town of Neka, northern Iran, was executed. Ateqeh Sahaleh(Rajabi) was hanged in public on Simetry Street off Rah Ahan Street at the city center.

The sentence was issued by the head of Neka's Justice Department and subsequently upheld by the mullahs' Supreme Court and carried out with the approval of Judiciary Chief Mahmoud Shahroudi.

In her summary trial, the teenage victim did not have any lawyer and efforts by her family to recruit a lawyer was to no avail. Ateqeh personally defended herself. She told the religious judge, Haji Rezaii, that he should punish the main perpetrators of moral corruption not the victims.



The judge personally pursued Ateqeh's death sentence, beyond all normal procedures and finally gained the approval of the Supreme Court. After her execution Rezai said her punishment was not execution but we had her executed for her "sharp tongue".

### **Man sentenced to death**

*Aftab, Aug. 19* – The death sentence of a man was issued in Tehran. The 40-year-old man was named Omid. He is sentenced to 74 lashes in addition to execution.

### **Three men hanged in Kerman**

*Jomhuri Islami daily, Aug. 21* – Three men were hanged in the Haft Baq Square in Kerman. Their names were Gholamreza A, Mohammad D. and Hamid A.

### **Political prisoner sentenced to execution**

*Radio Farda, Aug. 21* – According to a statement issued by the Komele Organization, Mr. Ismael Mohammadi, a political prisoner and a Kurd, is sentenced to execution by the 32<sup>nd</sup> branch of the High Court of Cassation. Ismael Mohammadi who is 38 years old is from Bokerd and has a wife and five children.

### **Man hanged in Salmas**

*Iran daily, Aug. 22* – A man identified as M.M. was hanged in Salmas's Tuti Square.

### **Man sentenced to death in Tehran**

*Iran daily, Aug. 22* – The Judicial System issued the death sentence of a man named Majid in Tehran. The death sentence had been upheld by the Supreme Court.

### **Two men sentenced to execution in Tehran**

*Korassan daily, Aug. 23* – The Judicial system in Tehran sentenced two men to execution. These two men are named Mohammad B. and Fereidoon.

### **One more death sentence**

*Khorassan daily, Aug. 23* – The judges of the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence for a man and deemed it necessary.

### **Hands Off Cain: 123 people executed in Iran since March**

*ANSA, Aug. 24* - Hands Off Cain announced in a statement that the Iranian regime has given (capital) punishment to at least 123 people



from the beginning of the new year. The number of punishments must be actually more than this because there is no official condition for the death sentence in Iran...

### **One man hanged in Karaj, two sentenced to death**

*Iranian state TV, Ch. 1, Aug. 25* – A man was hanged in public this morning in Hesarak. His sentence had been upheld by the Supreme Court. Two others were sentenced to death.

### **Another public execution in Iran**

*Agence France Presse, Aug. 25, Tehran* - An Iranian man has been hanged publicly near Tehran... The public hanging of the man, only identified as Parviz, was accompanied by an accomplice being lashed 99 times...

### **Calling for execution of a young couple**

*Etemad daily, Aug. 28* - Tehran's public prosecutor called for the execution of a young couple, Jamal and Sara. The trial of this couple will soon be held by the Criminal Court.

### **Man executed in Karaj prison**

*Etemad daily, Aug. 29* – A man was executed in Rajaii Shahr Prison in Karaj. Reza, whose death sentence had been upheld by the Supreme Court, was hanged in Rajaii Shahr Prison in Karaj.

### **16 year old in Karaj sentenced to death**

*Etemad daily, Aug. 31* – A 16 year old young man in Karaj was sentenced to death. The 16 year old Afghan teenager, named Feis Mohammad, was referred to the special court for juvenile delinquents in Karaj. After several trial sessions, Judge Loqman Kiapasha, head of the court, sentenced him to death.

### **Four forced to watch their father's hanging**

*IranFocus website, Sep. 3 Tehran*, - A man by the name of Mohammad N. was hanged in public in the city of Arak, (central Iran) on Sunday, August 29.

Mohammad's four young children were brought to the scene to watch the execution of their father.

As he was being taken to the gallows, the children pleaded for mercy for their father,



who was accused of killing his wife. Reacting to the outcries of his children, the crowd also called for the victim to be spared.

Officials, however, went ahead with the hanging. As the victim was being lifted on the crane, his 15-year-old girl, Mahdiyeh, ran up to her father's feet. While in tears, she attempted to force him on her own shoulders so that he would be able to breathe. Officials, however, prevented her from doing so and forced the children watch their father die.

The fate of Mohammad's two daughters and two sons remains undetermined.

### **Another execution in Iran**

*AFP, Aug. 31, Tehran* - An Iranian man convicted of murdering his wife has been hanged in public in a square in the central city of Arak, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. The man was identified only by his first name Mohammad.

## **Arrests, Tortures and inhumane punishments**

### **Widespread arrests of teenagers in Mashad**

*Rouydad website, Aug. 2* – The arrests are carried out by the State Security Forces stationed on Mashad's main streets. Special Unit forces have been stationed on streets since Friday...

These forces, who wear official and civilian clothes, are all equipped with batons, walkie talkies and hand cuffs. They walk among the people and especially the youth and take any boy or girl whom they determine has unsuitable hair, beard, clothes or appearance to a number of cage-like buses or mini-buses which are parked exactly at the intersections. They are permitted to use any kind of violence including using batons in the case of resistance. There are also a number of judges in the buses who quickly and in a matter of minutes issue sentences and order the transfer of the detainees to detention centers.

### **Man sentenced to lashing for drinking alcohol**

*Jomhuri Islami daily, Aug. 4, Ahwaz* – According to a report issued by the Intelligence and Public Relations Office of the Khuzestan Judiciary, a man named Ali S. was sentenced to 80 lashes by the 101<sup>st</sup> branch of the Ahwaz Public Prosecutor's Office for drinking alcohol.



### **Hunger strike in prison**

*Voice of America TV, Aug. 15* – There has been a few scattered hunger strikes including (the hunger strike of) a person named Massouri and another person from the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran. They have been in prison in an undetermined state for years ...

### **41 men and women arrested for participating in party**

*Khorassan daily, Aug. 15* – Agents of the State Security Forces in Qazvin arrested 41 men and women for participating in a party. Those arrested were 24 men and 17 women who were transferred to the Central Qazvin Prison.

### **35 arrested in sit-in of political prisoners' families**

*Voice of America, Aug. 17* - A number of political activists and members of the Democratic Front of Iran were arrested and suppressed outside of the UN office in Tehran. The father of Dr. Farzad Hamidi (political prisoner), Mr. Taqi Hamidi: "It was exactly 4:15 and we were 50 meters away from the United Nations office when two Intelligence agents came in front of us and said we did not have the right to move... Almost 35 people were arrested."

### **Tehran's youth arrested, flogged**

*Iran National TV, Aug. 25* – Agents of the State Security Force attacked a party in Tehran's Andisheh Street. A number of young girls and boys were arrested in this raid. A number of those arrested were reportedly released after being lashed.

## **Freedom of expression**

### **Arrest of members of music group**

*Khorassan daily, July 31* – The Public Relations of the Revolutionary Guards Forces announced: The members of a musical group who were performing in a wedding party were arrested for acting against Islamic sanctities. Anti-vice agents arrested two of the musicians and handed them over to judiciary officials.

### **"Playing loud music in the car is a crime"**

*Agence France Presse, Aug. 8, Tehran* - The judiciary in the western Iranian province of Hamedan has ordered that anyone caught playing thumping tunes in their cars should be subject to jail terms or lashes, the official news agency IRNA said Sunday.



"Playing any type of music loud in the vehicles is regarded as a crime and violators will be dealt by legal measures," the agency quoted Hamedan province's judiciary as saying in a statement.

### **Majlis proposes national costume to combat western fashions**

*AFP, Aug. 18, Tehran* - Iran's conservative parliament is preparing designs for national Islamic costumes to combat the corrupting influence of Western fashion, a prominent MP said Wednesday.

"We have to design new trends within the framework of an Islamic dress code. Both men and women need a national costume," Emad Afroogh, head of the parliamentary cultural commission, told student news agency ISNA

## **Women**

### **Commander of State Security Forces warns against improper veil**

*Jomhuri Islami daily, August 1* – The commander of the State Security Forces in Port of Anzali urged all women and visitors of this town to abide by the rules regarding the veil.

He said: "If people disregard the laws regarding the veil, they will be legally dealt with according to article 638 of the State Security Forces."

### **Intimidating wall graffiti against women and girls in North Tehran**

*Rouydad website, Aug. 2* – Witnesses say that there are intimidating wall graffiti against women and girls in some regions of North Tehran. The graffiti written in large red letters say: "Improper veiling – two months imprisonment, bare feet – 74 lashes".

Tehran's municipality which is charged with dealing with these situations has refrained from cleaning the slogans written by anonymous groups.

### **51 women and girls arrested in Gilan province**

*ISNA, Aug. 6* - Fifty-one women and girls were arrested in Gilan Province on charges of improper veiling. Gilan's State Security Forces announced: Thirty two improperly veiled women and girls in Lahijan and 19 others in Rasht were arrested under the plan to counter "public manifestations of corruption".



### **132 women arrested on charges of "improper veil"**

*Sharq daily, Aug. 7* – The head of the Information Center of Semnan Province's State Security Forces announced the arrest of 132 women with improper veiling. He said that according to the law of Islamic punishment, women with improper veiling who appear in public will be sentenced to jail terms ranging from 10 days to two months or a fine of 50 to 500 thousand rials.

### **Iran officials' links to trafficking of Iranian girls**

*Peik Net Website, Aug. 22* – Ansar Hezbollah has weekly meetings. In one of their latest weekly meetings a *Hojjat-ol-Islam* (high ranked clerical leader) named Kashani said: "The State Security Forces, Judiciary and Intelligence Ministry should know – of course I'm sure they do know – that some corruption rings are linked to powerful infiltrators in the Islamic Republic and I am willing to prove this issue to anyone and show evidence. In the cases of selling (Iranian) girls to Dubai Sheikhs, they do this with complete security and are sure that no system will stand in their way when they sell Iranian girls for at least between 12 to 15 million (15 to 20 thousand dollars) to Arab Sheikhs..."

## **Other news**

### **Iran 3<sup>rd</sup> country in suicide rate**

*Iran daily, Aug. 5* – The World Health Organization introduced Iran as the third country with high suicide rate after Colombia and India in 2001.

### **Execution of Iranian girl angers human rights group**

*AFP, Aug. 24 London* - Amnesty International has expressed its outrage at the reported execution of a girl, believed to be 16, in Iran. The London-based human rights group said Ateqeh Rajabi was reportedly publicly executed on August 15 for "acts incompatible with chastity".

The group said Rajabi "was not believed to be mentally competent" and "reportedly did not have access to a lawyer at any stage" of her trial.

"Amnesty International believes the execution of Ateqeh Rajabi underlines the urgent necessity that Iran pass legislation removing provision for the execution of child offenders," according to a statement yesterday.



Amnesty said Rajabi's hanging was the 10th execution of a child offender in Iran since 1990. Urging Iran to at least raise the minimum age of execution to 18, Amnesty also called for clarification on whether Rajabi had legal representation and whether a legally approved doctor deemed her psychologically fit to stand trial.

