



## COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM IN IRAN

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# Human Rights in Iran – February 2006

## Death sentences, executions

### Iran hangs “trouble-maker” in public in central city

*ISNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 01* – Iranian authorities hanged in public an individual accused of being a “trouble-maker” in the central city of Kerman, ISNA reported. The unnamed individual who was hanged in a one of the city’s public squares was charged with being involved in armed clashes with the security forces, creating “insecurity and trouble”, and kidnapping.

### Iran hangs a man in north east of Iran

*Ghods (state-run newspaper), Feb. 1* - A man that had been sentenced to death for committing a murder was hanged in the central prison of the city of Mashhad, Ghods newspaper reported.

### Iran hangs a man in south of Iran

*Etemaad (state-run newspaper), Feb. 1* - A 32-year-old man of Qatari origin who had been sentenced to death by a court in the southern city of Bandar-Abbas for committing murder was hanged in city’s prison, Etemaad newspaper wrote. He had an Iranian nationality and had murdered a 75-year-old man and injured his wife with an axe in a marriage dispute, according to the paper.

### A man sentenced to twice death

*Hamshahri (state run newspaper), Feb 2*, Judges in the city of Isfahan issued two death sentences for a 25 year-old-man, named Mohammad, who was accused of being involved in a bank robbery and killing the bank manager, Hamshahri newspaper reported.

### Three hanged in north-east Iran

*Khorrasan (state-run newspaper), Feb. 06* – Iranian authorities hanged three men in the north-eastern town of Sabzevar, Khorrasan newspaper reported. The three, dubbed “trouble-makers”, were charged with threatening national security, according to the paper.

### 18-year-old sentenced to twice death

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*Khorasan, Feb. 6* - An 18-year-old man, Mohammad Hassan, accused of killing two brothers 16 and 13 years old was sentenced to death, Khorasan newspaper reported. The judge, Aziz Mohammadi, referring to existing evidence said the crime was definite and sentenced the man to twice executions, the report said.

### **Iran executes opposition activist**

*United Press International, Feb. 15, Tehran* - A political prisoner and member of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran in Gohardasht prison in Karaj, west of Tehran was hanged Feb. 7. He was under torture and pressure since 2001, for five years. Zamani, 31 at the time of hanging, underwent the most severe physical and psychological torture. The clerical regime's henchmen sought to break his morale and compel him to express remorse and surrender.

To this end, they sent him to the cell block where ordinary and very dangerous prisoners were held. Zamani protested against this condition and went on hunger strike several times in 2004 and 2005. His conditions were a cause of concern in recent years, protested to by international human rights organizations and reflected in the media.

### **Iran court upholds death sentences for two teenagers**

*IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency), Feb. 14* – Iran's Supreme Court upheld a death by hanging sentence against two teenagers in Tehran, IRNA reported on Tuesday. The report quoted Nasser Seraj, head of Penal Courts in Tehran, as saying that the two 18-year-old men, only identified by their initials A. N. and A. K., were convicted of rape.

### **Iran sentences 15-year-old school boy to death**

*Iran Focus (opposition website), Feb. 15* – A 15-year-old schoolboy has been sentenced to death accused of murder, government-run websites announced on Wednesday. The teenage boy, only identified by his first name Mohammad, was originally sentenced by the Supreme Court to serve five years behind bars and pay blood-money for allegedly stabbing to death a friend after a scuffle. An appellate court, however, raised his sentence to death by hanging.

### **Iran sentences seven to death in volatile region**

*Iran newspaper (state-run), Feb. 15* – An Iranian court sentenced seven individuals to death for allegedly playing a role in twin bombings in the south-western city of Ahwaz that occurred in January, the daily Iran reported on Wednesday. The report quoted Iran's Minister of Justice Jamal Karimi-Rad as saying that a number of other individuals also received prison sentences.

### **Iran hangs two men in southern city**

*ISNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 17* – Two men accused of murder were hanged in the southern city of Shiraz, ISNA reported on Friday. The two men were only identified as Ayat Kh. and Mehdi A.



### **Man sentenced to death**

*ISNA (state news agency), Feb. 18* – A man accused of killing his wife over a moral dispute was sentenced to death by the 71st branch of Tehran's criminal court.

### **Iran vows to continue execution of minors**

*ILNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 18* – A judge at Tehran's Appellate Court announced that the Islamic Republic would continue to issue death verdicts for juvenile delinquents "without considering other available options". "Execution sentences will be issued to minors without considering other options", Ahmad Mozaffari told ILNA. Mozaffari made the comments after Iranian courts issued execution sentences to a 15 year old and 16 year old, the report said.

### **Two men hanged**

*Radio Farda (RFE/RF), Feb. 18* – According to news agencies, two men accused of kidnapping and rapes were hanged in Dezfoul's prison on Friday. This brings the number of executions in the past two months to 19.

Three death sentences for one man upheld

*Javan newspaper (state-controlled), Feb. 19* – Supreme Court judges upheld the verdict of an expelled worker from a hygiene production company, who had killed his friend and a young couple. He had been sentenced to three times executions by the criminal court's 71st branch.

### **A death sentence upheld**

*Khorasan newspaper (state-run), Feb. 20* – Death sentence for a man who had killed a member of the paramilitary forces was upheld by the Supreme Court, Khorasan newspaper reported.

### **Dissident executed**

*Peik-e-Iran (website), Feb. 20* – Iran's minister of intelligence, in an exclusive report announced the execution of Khaled Hardani. Hardani was one of the accused in the Foker100 airplane hijacking from Ahwaz to Bandar-abbas. Khaled Hardani and other family members were involved in the hijacking.

### **Death sentence upheld for dissident**

*Radio Farda (RFE/RF), Feb. 20* – In a report from Kurdistan Human Rights Organisation, the death sentence for Mostafa Rasouli-nia, one of the people arrested last summer in the city of Mahabad, has been upheld by a higher court.

### **A woman sentenced to death**

*ISNA, Feb 22* – A 40-year-old woman who has been accused of killing her husband with poison, was sentenced to death by the 71st branch of Tehran's criminal court.



### **Iran hangs 22-year-old man in prison**

*ISNA, Feb. 24* – A young man from the town of Ardebil, north-western Iran, was hanged in prison, ISNA reported. The man who was 22 years old and from the town of Meshkin Shahr was hanged in Ardebil Prison on Monday (20 feb.) for allegedly stabbing to death another young man in a village near his hometown, ISNA reported. The hanging took place in front of judicial official and police.

### **No news on whereabouts of three dissident prisoners**

*Radio Farda, Feb. 26* – There are no news about the destiny of three prisoners of the Ahl-e-Hagh minority who were sentenced to death. Bakhshali Mohamadi, Abdollah Ghasemzadeh and Jahanali Mohamadi had been in prison in the city of Oroumieh since last year. According to reports, they were taken out of the ward some days ago to be executed. They have been accused of making trouble with the security forces of the city of Mian-do-Ab.

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

### **Iran's secret police raids homes of striking bus drivers**

*Iran Focus, Feb. 02*, Tehran – Agents of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), the country's secret police, have been conducting night raids into the homes of striking bus drivers and workers in Tehran in recent days, arresting hundreds of union activists and, in some cases, detaining family members to blackmail strikers

### **Man receives 74 lashes in public**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run newspaper), Feb. 27* – A man accused of being a "trouble maker" was flogged in public by police in the northern Iranian city of Rasht, Jomhuri Islami newspaper reported. The man, only identified as Farshid N., received 74 lashes in Shik Street, the paper wrote. A court in Rasht had convicted Farshid of "causing trouble" and "frightening people in public places", according to the report.

### **Iran arrests Azeri political activists**

*Iran Focus (opposition website), Feb. 27*, London – Two political activists in Iran's Azerbaijan Province were arrested for spreading anti-government propaganda leaflets in the north-western town of Ahar, according to local residents. The two were identified as Javad Hassanpour and Taher Bayani. Hassan- Pour and Bayani were taken to prison on Saturday by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, Iran's dreaded secret police, for distributing leaflets hostile to the Iranian government. Azeri dissidents told Iran Focus that two Shiite clerics from Azerbaijan Province, who are opposed to the ruling theocracy, were arrested in the holy city of Qom on Saturday. Hojjat-ol-Islam Azimi Qadim and Hojjat-ol-Islam Fat'hollah were nabbed by



state intelligence agents from their homes. Their families have not been given any information on their fate.

## Other news

### Amnesty warns of political executions in Iran

*Amnesty International, Feb. 25* – The human rights group Amnesty International announced that it had “grave concern” about the “alarming rate” of executions in Iran, in particular highlighting the cases of a number of political prisoners, several of whom are on death row. “One of those recently executed was a political prisoner, Hojjat Zamani, a member of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), who was abducted from Turkey in 2003 and sentenced to death in 2004”, Amnesty said in a statement on Friday, adding that it took Iranian officials two weeks to announce his execution. “Hojjat Zamani’s execution has fuelled fears that other political prisoners may be at risk of imminent execution”, the rights group said. It said that there had been reports circulating since the start of February that “a number of political and other prisoners who are under sentence of death have been told by prison officials that they would be executed if Iran should be referred to the UN Security Council over the resumption of its nuclear programme”. “These are said to have included other members of the PMOI”, it said, adding, “It was the PMOI that was the source of evidence in 2002 revealing Iran’s nuclear programme to the outside world”. “Among those feared to be at risk are Sa’id Masouri, a PMOI member who has been held in solitary confinement in Section 209 of Evin Prison since late 2004; Khaled Hardani, Farhang Pour Mansouri and Shahram Pour Mansouri, all three of whom were involved in hijacking a plane in 2001 when Shahram Pour Mansouri was aged only 17; Gholamhossein Kalbi and Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi, both PMOI members, and Alireza Karami Khairabadi”, Amnesty said

### The number of prisoners doubled

*Voice of America TV, Feb. 5* - Human Rights activists and news sources reported that the number of prisoners have been doubled in Evin prison since mid January, 2006. A report indicates that the number of prisoners in Evin prison in reached to 2500 people; the same report added that bus driver workers who were arrested and held in ward 240 in Evin are still in hunger strike.

