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[Français](#)

[LIBRARY](#) > [MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA](#) > [MIDDLE EAST](#) > [IRAN](#)

AI Index: MDE 13/072/2006 23 June 2006

URGENT ACTION

Iran: Further information on fear of torture and ill-treatment / incommunicado detention/death sentence and new concern: imminent execution

PUBLIC AI Index: MDE 13/072/2006
 23 June 2006

Further Information on 233/05 (MDE 13/051/2005, 9 September 2005) and follow-up (MDE 13/065/2005, 2 November 2005 and MDE 13/033/2006, 31 March 2006) - Fear of Torture and ill-treatment/ Incommunicado detention/ Death sentence and new concern: Imminent execution

IRAN Mohsen Bawi (m), aged 33]
 Imad Bawi (m), law student, aged 31]
 Zamel Bawi (m), aged 29] brothers
 Hani Bawi (m), student, aged 22]
 Moslem Bawi (m), student, aged 19]
 Asad Bawi (m), their cousin, aged 34
 Mansour Tayouri (m)] members of the
 extended Bawi family

Hassan Boughedar (or Bou Azar or Bozar) (m)]
 Lefteh Sarkhi (m), student

Zamel Bawi had his death sentence confirmed by Branch 3 of the Revolutionary Court in Ahvaz on 10 June 2006 on charges of hiding seven home-made bombs which he defused before his arrest. Zamel and Imad Bawi were reportedly sentenced to death in October 2005 and may have appeared in a Tehran court on 21 February 2006. Although no details of that hearing were divulged, new reports suggest that Imad Bawi has been sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment.

Urgent Action

Amnesty International Urgent Action network provides an effective means of preventing the most life-threatening rights violations against individuals.

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See also

[Iran: Further information on fear of torture and ill-treatment / incommunicado detention/death sentence and new concern: imminent execution](#) (31/03/2006)

[Iran: Further information on fear of torture and ill-treatment / incommunicado detention/death sentence and new concern: imminent execution](#) (02/11/2005)

[Iran: Fear of torture and ill-treatment / Incommunicado detention](#) (09/09/2005)

possibly after appearing before an Appeal Court.

Saleh Nikbakht, the lawyer representing the five Bawi brothers and their cousin Asad Bawi, reportedly said that they will appeal against the verdict adding that "Although buying and selling weapons is illegal, hiding bombs without using them is not subject to the death sentence in the same way as it applies to those who attack the government."

New reports suggest that Mohsen Bawi has been sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and that the case of the youngest brother, Moslem Bawi, who was under 18 at the time of his arrest, has been referred to a juvenile court. Moslem Bawi had reportedly been sentenced previously to at least 11 years' imprisonment by a Revolutionary Court. Hanif Bawi was reportedly sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with a subsequent 10 years' exile in Azerbaijan, northern Iran in March 2006.

Asad Bawi, who was released on 2 May 2006 on a 500 million Rials bail (equivalent to about US\$55,000), has reportedly been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Mansour Tayouri, Hassan Boughedar (or Bou Azar or Bozay) and Leفته Sarkhi have also reportedly been sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment with subsequent exile to the Northern provinces of Iran.

Given the secretive nature of the trials, the current stage of the legal proceedings is unclear to Amnesty International. Some or all of the cases have been sent to the Supreme Court for review.

At the beginning of June, seven lawyers who appeared before Branch 3 of the Revolutionary Court representing the prisoners, reportedly wrote a letter of complaint to the president of the court. In the letter, the lawyers described irregularities in the trial: they were notified of their clients' trial date only one to two days in advance, instead of the minimum of five days stated in Article 64 of the Civil Procedure Code, and could not study their clients' files fully; they were not allowed to meet in private with their clients despite their requests and despite the fact that the Head of the Judiciary reportedly stated on 20 May 2006 that: "Nobody has the right to issue an order in contravention of the law and to deprive the accused of the right of visit to their family and lawyer. They must know quite clearly that they may request a private meeting with their lawyer." The letter also stated that the trial sessions have been held independently, without the other defendants and lawyers being present.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Unrest among the Arab community in Khuzestan province, including bomb explosions in Ahvaz City in June and October 2005, and January 2006 which killed at least 20 people, and explosions at oil installations in September and October 2005, has led to scores of deaths at the hands of the security forces and hundreds of arrests. Two men, Mehdi Nawaseri and Ali Awdeh Afrawi were executed in public on 2 March 2006 after they were convicted of involvement in the October bombings. Their executions followed unfair trials before a Revolutionary Court during which they are believed to have been denied access to lawyers, and their confessions, along with those of seven other men, were broadcast on television.

AI Index: MDE 13/072/2006 23 June 2006

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[Back to Top](#) ^^

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