

## **Stop the Execution of Child Offenders in Iran**

Iran is one of the only countries left in the world today that still executes children and child offenders (those accused of committing an offense when they were under eighteen years of age). Currently, there are at least 84 known juvenile offenders awaiting execution in Iran, but the total number could be much higher. Many of those scheduled to be executed were convicted in flawed legal proceedings.

Urge Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, head of the Iranian judiciary, to commute the death sentences of child offenders Mohammad Feda'i and Saeed Jazee. A sample letter has been provided, but please be encouraged to express your own thoughts.

### **Send message to:**

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh  
Office of the Head of the Judiciary  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri  
Tehran 1316814737  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Email: [info@dadgostary-tehran.ir](mailto:info@dadgostary-tehran.ir)  
(In the subject line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the imposition of the death penalty for child offenders in Iran. At the current time, at least 84 child offenders are reportedly facing the death penalty in Iran.

One of them is Mohammad Feda'i, who was convicted of a murder committed when he was seventeen, after an unfair trial in 2005. Although the five sentencing judges in his case found Mohammad Feda'i guilty, they also acknowledged in their written verdict that the killing was an act of self-defense and that he had not been adequately represented at his trial, as his first legal representative was not an accredited lawyer, and two lawyers hired later had only submitted one written defense statement to the court during his trial. Nevertheless, the death sentence against Mohammad Feda'i was upheld by Branch 27 of the Supreme Court, and has been approved by the Head of the Judiciary.

In another case, Saeed Jazee, a sculptor, is also set to be executed for a crime that took place when he was seventeen. He was convicted in 2003 for killing a man during a scuffle in a sandwich shop. During the trial, the shop's other employees stated that the killing had been accidental. Saeed Jazee has repeatedly stated that the killing was not intentional.

Iran is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states in Article 6 that, "Sentence of death shall not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below

eighteen years of age.” The Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Iran is also a state party, states in Article 37 that, “Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without the possibility of release shall be imposed for offenses committed by persons below eighteen years of age.”

I am encouraged by recent efforts within Iran to end the practice of child executions. For example, a draft law proposed by the judiciary in 2001 could pave the way for the abolition of the death sentence for minors or at least result in a reduction in the number of offenses for which child offenders could be sentenced to death, but the draft law is still under consideration by the political and judicial authorities.

I urge you to commute the death sentences of child offenders Mohammad Feda'i and Saeed Jazee and to implement a moratorium on all executions of those convicted of crimes committed before they were 18 years of age. I also urge you to encourage the efforts being made to effect an end to the imposition of the death penalty on child offenders in Iran.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,