

Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand welcomes an announced end to child executions by Iran

Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand (AIANZ) welcomes today's announcement that Iran will end the death penalty for those under the age of 18.

Iran's commitment to cease the execution of juvenile offenders who have committed crimes punishable by death is to be applauded and we urge the Head of Iran's Judiciary to apply that ban immediately, says AIANZ Children Rights Network Coordinator Peter Sutton.

"This is an issue that our Children's Rights Network has been working on for more than two years. We are absolutely delighted with the result," says Sutton.

"There is no other country that officially executes juveniles," he adds.

Amnesty International hopes that this commitment will pave the way to a complete abolition of the death penalty in Iran. It also urges Iran's parliament, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, or Majles, to ensure that this change is incorporated quickly into legislation currently under review, and for the higher legislative body, the Council of Guardians, to support the ban.

Background

Iran is currently the only country in the world known to have executed a juvenile this year. This year Amnesty has documented a further six cases where juvenile offenders have been hung following their 18 birthday.

In lieu of the death penalty, Iranian judges have now been instructed to issue sentences to juveniles ranging from 15 years to life imprisonment.

Amnesty International is totally opposed to the death penalty because:

- It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.
- It violates the right to life.
- There is no evidence that it is any more effective in reducing crime than other punishments.
- It has no place in a modern criminal justice system.

For further comment contact

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