

Iran hangs political prisoner Wed. 15 Feb 2006

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TEHRAN, Feb. 15 (UPI) -- Hojjat Zamani, 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.

Zamani was under torture and pressure since 2001, for five years. Ali Haji Kazem, the warden of Gohardasht prison, and two others known as Arjmandi and Seyyed, an executive deputy for implementation of the verdicts, were among those involved in the execution.

The 6th branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Court had already condemned Hojjat to four executions, in summer 2004. At the end of the same year, a two-man branch of the Supreme Court consisting of mullah Mohseni Ezheii, the incumbent Minister of Intelligence, and Nabi Raji used many false allegations and condemned Hojjat to two times executions and full payment of blood money.

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.