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EU Presidency statement on the imminent execution of juvenile offenders in Iran

The Presidency of the EU expresses its deep concern on news of the imminent execution of Mr Mohammad Fadaei who was convicted and sentenced to death for a crime committed when he was a minor. Mr Fadaei is scheduled to be executed on 11 June 2008. Two other juvenile offenders, Mr Behnood Shojaee and Mr Saeed Jazee, who were also convicted of crimes which took place when they were minors, have also been scheduled for execution on 11 June and 25 June 2008 respectively.

The Presidency notes that these juvenile death sentences are in direct contravention of the Islamic Republic of Iran's international obligations and commitments, specifically as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed when they were minors. These international legal obligations have been freely entered into by the Islamic Republic of Iran and must be fully respected by the Iranian authorities.

The Presidency calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with international law and to immediately halt the executions of Mr Mohammad Fadaei, Mr Behnood Shojaee, Mr Saeed Jazee and all other juvenile offenders on death row, taking in consideration alternative sentences for juvenile offenders and respect for international norms and standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

The European Union has previously raised its concerns with the Iranian authorities concerning the use of juvenile death penalty and has specifically raised the cases of Mr Behnood Shojaee and Mr Saeed Jazee also in this regard.