

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT • 17

# جمهوری اسلامی

Subject: On pardon eligibility requirements for prisoners  
The official: The designated successor of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri  
The occasion: Meeting with the head of Iran's prisons and the members of the Pardon Commission designated by Ayatollah Khomeini  
Date: 29 January 1988  
Source: *Jomhuri Eslami*, 30 January 1988

... [Montazeri] emphasized that if relevant officials and prosecutors, based on their own knowledge or through received information about the mini-groups, ascertained that an individual had been disciplined [punished] and had repented, such person should not remain in prison, even if condemned to a lengthy prison sentence. "The criterion for amnesty or commutation of sentence should not be [a person's prior condemnation to] longer or shorter imprisonment, for a person condemned to a short prison term may not be disciplined yet, or, on the contrary, a person condemned to a long prison term may be disciplined and repent after a short time. This principle [pardon or commutation

of sentence] should be implemented on the basis of an investigation, consultation with prosecutors, and information about the mini-groups, to conform to the views of the Imam [Khomeini]. If it is deemed that a person has been disciplined and has repented and there is no need for him to remain in prison, the Pardon Commission should begin the amnesty process for such individuals. God willing [for the anniversary of the Islamic Republic and other such occasions], persons deserving of pardon and freedom should be released and pardoned; they should either be freed [from prison] or their sentence commuted."

