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جمهوری اسلامی

Subject: On dispensing justice in Islam and the spiritual guidance of prisoners
The official: Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution, Hojjat ol-islam Sayed Hossein Musavi Tabrizi
The occasion: Press conference
Date: 14 December 1981
Source: *Jomhuri Eslami*, 15 December 1981

“We have been providing prisoners with audio-visual programs, which are being carried out in many small towns and contain lessons on the interpretation of the Qur’an and the Nahjolbala-geh [writings of the first Shi’a imam, Ali], and answer questions about ideology. They [prisoners] are given tape recorders to listen to speeches, and are visually exposed to books, of which a million have been purchased. These [undertakings] have been well received by the prisoners. They read ideological newspapers and pamphlets, and receive lessons through audio and video tapes. A television channel is [also] set up for them for the purpose of spiritual guidance. It operates in Evin Prison and has a range of six to eight kilometers [4–5 miles]. These television and radio channels, which allow us to broadcast programs 24 hours a day [nonstop], began operating on Sunday, which is an excellent accomplishment. Televisions are installed in all prison sections and rooms, and nationwide television programs are aired at their usual times; guidance and ideology lessons are broadcast on the spiritual guidance channel. Other than these spiritual guidance and ideology lessons, God willing,

we have asked devout teachers and religious folk to give them on-site audio-visual lessons, and have also sent them preachers. These [actions] have been so positive that [officials] report prisoners are now enthusiastically accepting the programs, have been spiritually guided, and that a friendly [if not] brotherly relationship has developed between the prisoners and the judge, assistant judge, and prosecutor. . . .” When asked about the difference in the punishment of political prisoners and regular prisoners, Mr. Musavi replied: “We have no political prisoners in our courts. Can those who play with the country’s dignity [and prestige] martyr 72 of our best people [allusion to the bombing of the Islamic Republic Party’s headquarters], martyr Ayatollah Madani by placing a bomb in his pulpit and prayer room, and kill the disinherited masses by placing a bomb at the train station, be referred to as political convicts? We do not have political convicts; these are terrorists, conspirators, traitors, and savages who will be prosecuted in an Islamic court, just like other convicts. They will be dealt with by Islamic laws, and punished accordingly.”

