

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 25/06/97

1 April 1997

Further information (1) on UA 225/96 (AFR 25/15/96, 26 September 1996) - Death penalty

ETHIOPIAAbdulkarim al-Naji Abdelradi
al-Arab Sadiq Hafiz
Safwat Hassan Abdelghani

On 26 March 1997 Ethiopia's Supreme Court rejected appeals by the three men named above against death sentences imposed on 20 September 1996. The three - all Egyptian nationals - were convicted of attempting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June 1995 and of killing two Ethiopian police officers.

The cases will now be considered by the President of Ethiopia. He could confirm the sentences and order executions to proceed or exercise presidential clemency and commute the sentences to prison terms.

To Amnesty International's knowledge there have been no judicial executions in Ethiopia since the overthrow of the Mengistu Haile-Mariam government in 1991. However, dozens of people have been condemned to death for murder in aggravated circumstances, and over 2,000 officials of the former government face death sentences if found guilty in trials now in process for genocide, war crimes and extrajudicial executions.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern that these three death sentences have been confirmed by the Supreme Court and urging that they be commuted;
- stating that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which should be abolished world-wide;
- urging that the government does not now start executing prisoners, however serious the crimes for which they have been convicted.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Dr Negaso Gidada
President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Office of the President
P O Box 1031
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telegrams: President Negaso, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: +2511 552030
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office,
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 552030**

Mr Mahteme Solomon, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, P O Box 1370,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 550722**

Mr Kemal Bedri, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, P O Box 6166, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 550278**

Mr Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
P O Box 393, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 514300**

and to diplomatic representatives of Ethiopia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 May 1997.