

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Further information on EXTRA 66/92 (EUR 11/07/92, 17 July 1992) - Death Penalty**

**ALBANIA: Petrit MEMA**

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Petrit Mema was sentenced to death on 2 July 1992 by the district court of Tirana for murdering a young woman while attempting to rape her. On 17 July 1992 the Supreme Court confirmed his sentence. Amnesty International has not yet learned whether he has been executed or his sentence has been commuted by the President of the Republic.

Amnesty International has learned of 12 death sentences passed in Albania between February and early July 1992. They were all imposed for murder. Six men had been executed by July 1992, and three had their sentences commuted. The fate of Petrit Mema and the two others under sentence of death - Hamit Bitri (featured in EXTRA 21/92, EUR 11/02/92 of 26 February 1992 and follow-up EUR 11/08/92 of 21 October 1992) and Flamur Seferi, who was sentenced to death by the district court of Kavaja on 20 June 1992 - is not known to Amnesty International, but it must be assumed that the Presidential decision on their cases has by now been taken. Amnesty International has not learned of any death sentences passed since early July 1992, but it fears that this may be due to poor reporting.

In May 1992 the Secretary General of Amnesty International wrote to President Berisha urging him to commute those death sentences which had not already been carried out and calling for an immediate moratorium on the passing and carrying out of death sentences, with a view to the eventual abolition of the death penalty.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network on this case. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.