

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 14/11/97

EXTRA 167/97

Executions / Fear of execution

11 December 1997

IRAQ

Waleed Muhammad Tawfiq Nsserat  
Riziq Besharah Riziq  
Sa'ad Yussuf Ali al-Douji  
Salah Yussuf Ali al-Douji

Ammar Shahab al-Din

- all Jordanian nationals

The execution of four Jordanian nationals on 8 December 1997 in Baghdad has heightened fears for the life of a fifth Jordanian sentenced to death in recent days.

There are conflicting reports about the offences of which the four executed men were convicted. One report says that Waleed Muhammad Tawfiq Nsserat, Riziq Besharah Riziq, Sa'ad Yussuf Ali al-Douji and his brother Salah Yussuf Ali al-Douji were found guilty of smuggling car parts, another that they were convicted of drug smuggling.

In a separate case, Ammar Shahab al-Din is reported to have been sentenced to death on 7 December for smuggling.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and is a violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing deep regret at the executions of four Jordanian nationals on 8 December 1997 and calling for an end to further executions;
- urging that the death sentence on Ammar Shahab al-Din be commuted;
- acknowledging the role of governments in bringing to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, a punishment which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and is brutalising to all those involved in its application;

**if possible, also:**

- seeking clarification of the charges brought against the five Jordanian nationals and requesting details of trial proceedings followed in their cases.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) H.E. President Saddam Hussain

President of the Republic

Presidential Palace

Karadat Mariam

Baghdad, Iraq

**Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik**

**Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) H.E. Muhammad Zamman 'Abd al-Razzaq

Minister of the Interior

Ministry of the Interior

Baghdad, Iraq

**Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Hassan, Baghdad, Iraq**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Baghdad, Iraq

**Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Due to a limited and irregular postal service to Iraq and the possibility of delays please write directly to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country, or if possible, send a telegram or telex.

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 January 1998.