

EXTERNAL

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JORDAN Death penalty: Mustafa 'Abd al-Mustafa, 47

On 3 March 1998 a Jordanian criminal court sentenced Mustafa 'Abd al-Mustafa to death, after he was convicted of robbing and killing Haygar 'Ali in February 1996.

Mustafa 'Abd al-Mustafa was initially sentenced to life imprisonment on 16 March 1997. However, the Court of Cassation reviewed the case and returned the case to the lower court, ordering a harsher penalty to be imposed.

The Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal must ratify the death sentence before it can be carried out.

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime and recognizes the role of governments in bringing perpetrators of such crimes to justice. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International is therefore absolutely opposed to the use of the death penalty.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Eleven people were executed in Jordan in 1997. Others are awaiting hearings before the Court of Cassation. In 1996, at least 23 people were sentenced to death and 10 people were executed.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the role of governments in bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to justice;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and which is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging King Hussein bin Talal to commute the death sentence imposed upon Mustafa 'Abd al-Mustafa on 3 March 1998 to a more humane form of punishment;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Royal Palace
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 627 421
Salutation: Your Majesty

'Abd al-Salam Majali
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 80
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 642 520
Salutation: Your Excellency

Riyad Shak'a
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 680 238
Salutation: Dear Minister

Nazir Rashid
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 606 908
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 4 May 1998.