

EXTERNAL

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Death Penalty

21 July 1997

JORDAN Ayesh Salem, (20), shepherd

On 1 July 1997 Ayesh Salem, a shepherd, was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court having been found guilty of molesting and then strangling his 12-year-old niece.

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

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime and recognizes the responsibility of governments to punish the perpetrators. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the severest form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is therefore unconditionally opposed to its use.

BACKGROUND

Eight people have so far been 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 were executed. At least 13 people had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal last year.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the right and duty of governments to bring 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 against Ayesh Salem 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 al-'Aqasha
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

Nazir Rashid
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

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 1 September 1997.