

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 18/001/2004

15 January 2004

Further Information on UA 370/03 (MDE 18/018/2003, 24 December 2003) - Death Penalty/ Imminent Executions

LEBANON

**Ahmad 'Ali Mansour (m)
Badea' Waleed Hamada (alias Abu Obayda) (m)
Remi Antoan Zaatar (m)**

Fadi Ahmad Mereish (m)

The President signed final execution decrees for Ahmad 'Ali Mansour, Badea' Waleed Hamada and Remi Antoan Zaatar on 14 January. They are to be executed before dawn on Saturday, 17 January.

Ahmad 'Ali Mansour is to be hanged, while Badea' Waleed Hamada and Remi Antoan Za'atar are to be executed by firing squad. They are to be executed at Roumieh prison, in the capital, Beirut.

The execution decrees have also been approved by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice.

There is no new information about Fadi Ahmad Mereish.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All three men were convicted of murder. There have been no executions since President Lahoud took office on 24 November 1998.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, regardless of the crime for which it is imposed, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The finality and cruelty inherent in the death penalty render it incompatible with norms of modern-day civilized behaviour and an inappropriate and unacceptable response to crime.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- urging the Lebanese authorities to halt these executions immediately;
- expressing sympathy for the families and friends of the alleged victims of the men named above;
- expressing concern at the apparent reintroduction of the death penalty in Lebanon after five welcome years of a de facto moratorium on its application;
- urging the authorities to carry out no more executions in Lebanon
- urging the Lebanese government to take effective steps towards abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Emile Lahoud
Office of the President
Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, Beirut
Lebanon

Fax: + 961 1 425 391

Telex: 21000

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Rafiq Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Grand Sérail
Rue des Arts et Métiers
Sanayeh, Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 785 014
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Bahij Tabbara
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Rue Sami Solh
Beirut
Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 862 622 (ask to send a fax on answer)
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Nabih Berri
Speaker of the National Assembly
National Assembly
Beirut
Lebanon
**Fax: + 961 1 982 059/
+ 961 1 793 083**
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 January 2004.