

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 146/92 Death Penalty

7 May 1992

ALGERIA: Aissa Messaoudi (also known as Tayeb El Afghani)  
Lazhar Amar  
Mohamed Nguia  
Bechir Rezig  
Bachir Osman  
Kamel Rukhe  
Hakim Chena  
Tayeb Sennouga  
Khalid Kessous  
Amrar Atmani-Terat  
Jamal Bou Djelkha  
Belqacem Tlili  
Abdelnacer Saidani

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the death sentences passed on 13 people in Algeria on 4 May 1992. It is appealing for the death sentences to be commuted should they be confirmed by the Supreme Court.

The 13 people named above, were sentenced to death, one *in absentia*, by the military court in Ouargla. All 13 were convicted of participating in an attack against a border post in Guemmar, in the north-east of Algeria near the Tunisian border, in November 1991. During the attack three of the post's defenders were killed.

These 13 people were part of a group of 61 people who were tried, seven *in absentia*, in connection with the attack. The charges brought against them included plotting against state security, forming an armed band, theft of weapons and ammunitions, murder, and crimes against the authority of the state.

The 13 individuals sentenced to death include Aissa Messaoudi, known as "Tayeb El Afghani", reportedly because of his military training in Afghanistan.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to Algerian law those sentenced by a military court can apply within eight days to the Supreme Court for cassation which is competent to review alleged misapplication of the law. If the death sentences are upheld by the Supreme Court, executions may not be carried out until a plea for clemency has been presented to the President and refused.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the death sentences passed on the 13 people named above;
- urging President Mohamed Boudiaf to commute the sentences should these be upheld by the Supreme Court;
- urging that all death sentences be commuted in Algeria and that steps be taken to restrict and eventually abolish the death penalty.

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**APPEALS IN FRENCH OR ARABIC IF POSSIBLE TO:**

1. President

Président M. Mohamed BOUDIAF  
Président du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Palais Présidentiel  
El-Mouradia  
Alger  
Algérie

**Telexes: 66044; 66088**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

2. Minister of Defence

M. Khaled NEZZAR  
Ministre de la Défense Nationale  
et Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Ministère de la Défense Nationale  
Avenue des Tagarins  
Alger  
Algérie

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

3. High Council of State Member

M. Ali HAROUN  
Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Palais Présidentiel  
El-Mouradia  
Alger  
Algérie

**Telexes: 66044; 66088**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS:**

Please send copies of your appeals to diplomatic representatives of Algeria in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 June 1992.