

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 152/92 (MDE 28/03/92, 8 May 1992) and follow-up MDE 28/06/92, 30 October 1992 - Death Penalty

ALGERIA:Noureddine Rahmoune
Ahmed Fodhil
Sid Ahmed Lahrani

Amnesty International deeply regrets the execution of Noureddine Rahmoun and Ahmed Fodhil on 11 January 1992. The two men, both military personnel, were sentenced to death in May 1992 by the military court in Blida for participating in an attack on the Amirauté (Navy headquarters) in Algiers in February 1992.

The death sentences were confirmed by the Supreme Court in October 1992. The case of Sid Ahmed Lahrani, who was also sentenced to death *in absentia* at the same time, appears not to have been reviewed yet by the Supreme Court.

Under Algerian law, those convicted by the military court may apply to the Supreme Court for review by cassation, a procedure which concerns only alleged misapplication of the law, not facts. If the death sentences are upheld by the Supreme Court, executions may only be carried out after a plea for clemency has been presented to the President of the Republic and refused.

These are the first executions known to have been carried out in Algeria since 1989. Forty-eight death sentences have been imposed over the last year, bringing the number of those said now to be on death row to over 120.

Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice and to punish those responsible for criminal offences such as those mentioned above but 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.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Noureddine Rahmoune and Ahmed Fodhil;
- expressing regret that, with these executions, Algeria has carried out its first death penalty of over three years;
- reiterating that Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- urging that all death sentences be commuted and that steps be taken towards the abolition of the death penalty in Algeria.

APPEALS TO:

1) President

Président M. Ali KEFI
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
El-Mouradia
Alger
Algérie

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Telegrams: President Kefi, Alger, Algérie
Faxes: 213 2 609618
Telexes: 66044/66088

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

2) High Council of State Member

M. Ali HAROUN
Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: M Ali Haroun, Haut Comite d'Etat, Alger, Algeria
Telexes: 66217/66221/66044/66088

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

3) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed HARDI
Ministre de l'Interieur
Ministère de l'Interieur et des Collectivités Locales
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Hardi, Alger, Algeria
Telexes: 66341
Faxes: 213 2 618802 or 213 2 645793

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Lakhdar Brahimi
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
6 rue 16N- Batran
El Mouradia
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires Etrangeres Brahimi, Alger, Algeria
Telexes: 66241/66178/66243
Faxes: 213 2 605161

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS to the following Human Rights Organizations:

Observatoire national des droits de l'homme

Palais du Peuple
Avenue F. Roosevelt
Alger
Algérie

Ligue algérienne des droits de l'homme

40-42 rue Larbi ben M'Hidi
Alger
Algérie

Ligue algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme

19 rue Abane Ramdane
Alger
Algérie

and to diplomatic representatives of Algeria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 February 1993.