

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 102/93 (MDE 28/20/93, 25 November 1993) - Death Penalty / Fear of Execution

**ALGERIA: Didier-Roger GUYAN (French national)
and at least 150 others on death row under threat of execution**

Amnesty International cautiously welcomes new reports that Algeria's Higher State Committee has decided to suspend the executions of people condemned to death under emergency "anti-terrorist" laws. However, the organization is concerned that this decision has not been confirmed and that Didier-Roger Guyan and at least 150 other people on death row in Algeria remain under threat of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The decision of the Higher State Committee [*Haut Comité d'Etat* (HCE)] to suspend the executions of those condemned on terrorist charges was reportedly due to take effect from Wednesday 24 November. On the same day, talks were held between the government-appointed National Dialogue Commission [*Commission du dialogue national* (CDN)] and representatives of various political interests and parties, as part of the authorities' declared aim to seek a consensual solution to Algeria's political crisis. Amnesty International has to date been unable to obtain a confirmation of the reported suspension of executions and is concerned that there are no firm indications that these will not resume.

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

- cautiously welcoming the reports that the Haut Comité d'Etat may have decided to suspend executions of people tried on terrorist charges and urging the authorities to confirm this decision;
- expressing concern that Didier-Roger Guyan and at least 150 other people on death row continue to face execution and urging that Ali Kafi, President of the Haut Comité d'Etat, commute all outstanding and future death sentences;
- stating that Amnesty International unconditionally 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 punishment. These rights are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Algeria is a state party, and may not be derogated from under any circumstances.

APPEALS TO:

(all salutations: Excellence/Your Excellency)

- 1) President of the Haut Comité d'Etat

M. Ali KAFI
Président du Haut Comité d'Etat
Présidence de la République
El-Mouradia
Alger, Algérie
Faxes: +213 2 609618
Telegrams: Président Kafi, Alger, Algérie
Telexes: 66044/66088

2) Prime Minister and member of the Haut Comité d'Etat
M. Redha MALEK
Chef du Gouvernement
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger, Algérie
Telexes: 66217/66221
Telegrams: Premier Ministre Malek, Alger, Algérie

3) Minister of Justice
M. Mohamed TEGUIA
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Alger, Algérie
Faxes: +213 2 796557
Telexes: 61498
Telegrams: Ministre Téguia, Ministre de la Justice, Alger, Algérie

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Governmental Human Rights body:
Observatoire national des droits de l'homme
Palais du Peuple
Avenue F. Roosevelt
Alger, Algérie
Faxes: +213 2 601042

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 28 December 1993.