

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

10 August 1993

MOROCCO:

First known execution in eleven years, Mohamed Tabet

Amnesty International deplors the first execution in Morocco after a period of eleven years when none are known to have been carried out. Mohamed Tabet, was executed by firing squad at dawn in Kenitra Central Prison on 9 August 1993. This was the first execution known to have been carried out in Morocco since 1982. The number of those said to be at present on death row in Morocco is over 150 and Amnesty International is urging that their sentences be commuted.

Mohamed Tabet was police commissioner and head of the Renseignements généraux (Information Service, a branch of the national security) for the Ain Sebaa/Hay Mohammedi district of Casablanca. He was convicted at Casablanca Criminal Court on 15 March of rape and violence against up to 1,600 women. The death sentence passed against him was upheld by the Supreme Court on 5 August 1993. Under Moroccan law, if death sentences are upheld by the Supreme Court, executions may only be carried out after a plea for clemency has been presented to the King and refused.

While appreciating the outrage that crimes such as those committed by Mohamed Tabet provoke, Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing condemnation of the execution of Mohamed Tabet;
- expressing serious concern that with this execution Morocco has carried out its first known execution since 1982;
- stating that Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- stating that worldwide, over 40 percent of all countries have abolished the death penalty;
- explaining that while appreciating the outrage such crimes provoke, the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other sentences;
- urging that all death sentences be commuted and that the death penalty be abolished in Morocco.

APPEALS TO

1) The King:

Sa Majesté Hassan II / His Majesty King Hassan II

Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi

Palais Royal

Rabat, Morocco

Telegrams: King Hassan II Rabat Morocco

Telexes: 31744 or 32908

Salutation: Sire / Your Majesty

2) Minister of Justice:

M. Moulay Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Palais de la Manounia
Rabat
Morocco

Telegrams: Justice Minister Rabat Morocco

Telexes: 36888

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

3) Minister of the Interior

M. Driss Basri
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Information
Quartier Administratif
Rabat
Morocco

Telexes: 36161, 36731, 36969 ProCivile Rabat

Faxes: + 212 7 763011

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Governmental body:

M. Mohamed Mikou
Secrétaire Général
Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme
24 place des Chouhada
BP 1341
Rabat
Morocco

Non-governmental organizations:

2) Me Abdelaziz Bennani
Président
Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme
24, Avenue de France
Quartier Agdal
Rabat
Morocco

3) Me Abderrahmane Ben Ameer
Président
Association Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme
5, Zankat Soussa
Rabat
Morocco

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.