

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 93/02

Death by stoning and flogging

YEMEN

Layla Radman 'A'esh (f)
Naji Hizam 'Abdullah (m)

Amnesty International is concerned that a Yemeni woman, Layla Radman 'A'esh, is at risk of execution by stoning and Naji Hizam 'Abdullah is at risk of flogging after they were convicted of adultery by the Court of First Instance in Aden.

Naji Hizam 'Abdullah has been sentenced to 100 lashes. Layla Radman 'A'esh and Naji Hizam 'Abdullah had appealed against the ruling, however on 22 September 2001, the Appeal Court in Aden upheld their sentences.

Layla Radman 'A'esh's case is now pending before the Supreme Court for a final appeal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

Flogging is prescribed for offences of a sexual nature, and in relation to the consumption of alcohol, and slander. Articles 263 and 264 prescribe 100 lashes for fornication, where the offender is not married. In cases of adultery the punishment is death by stoning.

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

- expressing concern at the report that Layla Radman 'A'esh is to be stoned to death and calling for the commutation of her sentence;
- expressing concern at the flogging sentence against Naji Hizam 'Abdullah and calling for the sentence not to be carried out;
- seeking assurances that they will be provided with access to family and legal access in detention, as well as regular medical attention as and when it is necessary;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly;
- stating that you consider the use of flogging as a form of punishment to be cruel, inhuman and degrading, contrary to CAT and Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

Sana'a

Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Faxes: + 967 127 4147
Salutation: Your Excellency

Prime Minister

'Abd al-Qader Bajamal
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 282 669
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Rashid Muhammad al-'Alimi
Ministry of Interior
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 332 511
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.