

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 31/07/00

EXTRA 80/00

Imminent

**YEMEN Mansour Saif al-Horsome**

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Mansour Saif al-Horsome has reportedly been scheduled for execution in two days' time. Amnesty International is concerned that he may not have received a fair trial.

He was convicted of the murder of his wife in 1993. The president of the court that sentenced him to death is alleged to have been a relative of the prisoner's wife. Mansour Saif al-Horsome was allegedly not given sufficient opportunity to present a defence. His lawyer apparently lost his case file and did not consult him or keep him informed of the progress of the case.

Amnesty International has today received a report that an order for his execution has been issued, and he could be put to death as early as 25 October. Execution in Yemen is usually by firing squad.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has long-standing concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fail to meet international standards for fair trial.

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of all governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the report that Mansour Saif al-Horsome may be facing imminent execution, and urging that his death sentence be commuted to a more humane punishment;
- acknowledging the Yemeni government's right to bring to justice anyone found responsible for recognizably criminal offences, but expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life;
- reminding the government of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings, the right to appeal, and the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

**APPEALS TO:**

General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Yemen**

**Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE**

**Faxes: + 967 1 274 147**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen

**Faxes: + 967 1 282 669**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

General Hussein Muhammad 'Arab, Minister of Interior

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**Telegrams:Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen**

**Faxes: + 967 1 251 529 / 251 566**

**Salutation:Your Excellency**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**