

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 290/94 (MDE 31/04/94, 4 August 1994) - Executions
/Fear of further executions

YEMEN Hussein Muhammad 'Abdullah al-Ajrab
Hussein Nassir Bin Hadi Harbi
Mulatif Hussein al-Seiyaghi
Amin 'Ali 'Abdullah Ha'im
Muhammad Hussein al-Zubeiri
Saleh Nassir al-'Ali
Ahmed 'Ali Hussein al- Ghobar
Jaber Malish Abu Sayed
Khamid Muqbil Hatman
Sameh Muhsin al-Khalil
Nakhi 'Ali Ahmed Duhan
Khalid Nassir Ahmed al-Mahash
Muhammad Ahmed al-Shahri
Hazza' Muhammad Masidi

Amnesty International has learned with regret that all of those named above, plus at least six others, have been executed over the past month. All had been convicted of premeditated murder. Amnesty International is gravely concerned at information that further executions are imminent over the next few weeks.

The vast majority of those currently on death row had been sentenced to death on charges of premeditated murder in the 1980s and early 1990s in the Northern provinces (formerly the Yemen Arab Republic -YAR). In May 1990, the former YAR and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) unified to form a new state, the Republic of Yemen. In accordance with the Unity Agreement the legal systems of the two former states remained separate pending an agreement on a common Penal Code and Criminal Procedures Code. To date these laws have not been promulgated by the unified Republic of Yemen.

Death sentences in the Republic of Yemen must first be passed by a Court of First Instance, then upheld by a Provincial Appeal Court and by the Supreme Court of Cassation in Sana'a. Final ratification of death sentences is by the Presidential Council, the country's highest executive authority.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are reportedly hundreds, and possibly as many as a 1,000 death sentences currently at various stages in the appeals process in Yemen. In addition to its opposition to the death penalty, Amnesty International is concerned that the trials of the above may have been inconsistent with international standards for fair trial. In the former YAR, false testimony and statements extracted under torture were widely used to convict people in court. Amnesty International 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, and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing dismay that these executions have been carried out;
- appealing for clemency for those facing imminent execution;
- urging that all remaining death sentences in Yemen be commuted;

APPEALS TO

His Excellency
General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
Chairman of the Presidential Council
Sana'a

The Republic of Yemen

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

Faxes: +967 1 262 017

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Salutations: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representative of the Republic of Yemen in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 November 1994.