

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 27/01

Fear of i

YEMEN Saleh Nasser Ahmed al-Assadi, in his 50s

Saleh Nasser Ahmed al-Assadi is facing imminent execution, after his death sentence was approved by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He is scheduled for execution on 28 April, according to his lawyer. The President still has the power to overturn the death sentence.

Saleh Nasser al-Assadi was convicted of murder. Amnesty International has no details of his trial, but his lawyer claims that there were serious irregularities at the appeal proceedings, and that not all the evidence in support of his appeal was passed on to the Supreme Court.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial.

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of 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.

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

- expressing concern that Saleh Nasser Ahmed al-Assadi is reportedly 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 authorities that under international standards for fair trial in capital cases, defendants have 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
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

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

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Faxes: + 967 1 274 147

Salutation: Your Excellency

'Abd al-Qader Bajamal
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 1 251 529 / 251 566

Salutation:Your Excellency

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after June 2001