

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 16/14/98

19 October 1998

Further information on UA 329/97 (MDE 16/13/97, 22 October 1997) - Death penalty

JORDAN Othman Haroun, 24

Muhammad Sweilem, 21

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Amnesty International is concerned that the above persons may receive the death penalty following a decision by the Criminal Court on 14 October 1998 to uphold their death sentences. Earlier this year the Court of Cassation, which can consider procedural irregularities but is not permitted to examine the substance of cases, sent the case back to the Criminal Court stating that the defendants' testimony was contradictory. Despite this, the Criminal Court has upheld the sentences.

The Amman Criminal Court initially sentenced Othman Haroun and Muhammad Sweilem to death in November 1997.

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime but opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Capital punishment has never been shown to have a deterrent effect and the sentence is irrevocable.

Three persons have already been executed in Jordan this year. Mustafa 'Abd al-Mustafa was executed last week, on 15 October.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the role of governments in bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to justice;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and which is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging Crown Prince Hassan to commute the death sentence imposed upon Othman Haroun and Muhammad Sweilem and all other persons sentenced to death to a more humane form of punishment;
- reminding the government of Jordan of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 6: "Every human being has the inherent right to life." and urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1998.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Royal Highness  
Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal  
Office of H.M. the King  
Royal Palace  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 463 4755**  
**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

Dr Fayez Tarawneh  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence  
Office of the Prime Minister  
P.O.Box 1577  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 464 2520**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Jawdat Sboul  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
P.O.Box 6040  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 462 9949**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Nayef al-Kadi  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
P.O.Box 100  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 560 6908**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

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

***"Every human being has the inherent right to life."***

Article 6, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>