

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 18/01/95  
Distr: UA/SC

12 January 1995

Further information on UA 445/94 (MDE 18/10/94, 15 December 1994) - Death Penalty

LEBANON

Husam 'Ali al-Naser, aged 25

---

Amnesty International has learned with deep regret that Husam 'Ali al-Naser was executed by firing squad at dawn on 12 January 1995. He had been sentenced to death by a military court in November 1993 for premeditated murder.

This is the first execution in Lebanon in 1995 and is the fifth known to Amnesty International since executions were resumed by the state in April 1994 after 11 years. In March, the death penalty for murder with intent, and for murder with a political motive, was introduced (it had previously been applied solely in cases of premeditated murder).

Following this expansion in the death penalty, Amnesty International expressed its regret to the Lebanese authorities, urging them to review all legislation providing for the death penalty in order to reduce the number of capital offences with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

In a response to the organization in July, the Minister of Justice said that it was "inexact and inadmissible to pretend that Lebanon is committing a human rights violation by providing for the death penalty for certain crimes", stating that "the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [ICCPR], Article 6, Paragraph 2, expressly authorizes the death penalty for the most serious crimes".

Amnesty International does not condone violent crimes such as murder and recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice. However, it opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the fundamental right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is no reliable evidence that the death penalty helps to prevent other serious harm, for example by deterring crimes. The risk of error is inescapable, yet the penalty is irrevocable. No measure that may be devised can ever make it less inhumane.

While the ICCPR does not expressly forbid the use of the death penalty, Article 6 affirms that "every human being has the inherent right to life". In 1977, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly reaffirmed that "...the main objective to be pursued in the field of capital punishment is that of progressively restricting the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment".

Amnesty International continues to call for an end to executions in Lebanon, for all current death sentences to be commuted and for legislation providing for the death penalty to be abolished.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Husam 'Ali al-Naser on 12 January 1995;
- calling for all outstanding death sentences to be commuted;
- urging that all legislation providing for the death penalty be reviewed,

drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the ICCPR, to which Lebanon is a state party;  
- urging the Lebanese authorities to consider signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President Elias Hrawi

Presidential Palace

Ba'abda

Lebanon

**Telegrams: President Hrawi, Beirut, Lebanon**

**Telexes: 21000**

**Faxes: +961-1-425-393**

**Salutation: His Excellency**

2. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri

Office of the Prime Minister

Beirut

Lebanon

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon**

**Salutation: His Excellency**

3. Minister of Defence Mohsen Dalloul

Ministry of Defence

Yarzeh, Beirut

Lebanon

**Telegrams: Defence Minister Dalloul, Beirut, Lebanon**

**Telexes: 20901**

**Salutation: His Excellency**

4. Minister of Justice Bahij Tabbareh

Rue Sami Solh

Beirut

Lebanon

**Telegrams: Justice Minister Tabbara, Beirut, Lebanon**

**Salutation: His Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Nabih Berri

Speaker

National Assembly

Beirut

Lebanon

and to diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**