
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 46/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 9 MARCH 1994

NO OF WORDS:513

AI INDEX: NWS 11/46/94
DISTR: SC/PO

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - MOROCCO

PLEASE NOTE: SEE NEWS SERVICE 45/94, item on Yugoslavia. There is a document to accompany this news service, the index number is EUR 70/01/94. Copies of the document were given to those section campaign coordinators who attended the group meeting in Amsterdam on 4-5 March. It is also being sent out in this week's weekly mailing.

PLEASE NOTE: Jan Marieger, the IS press office intern, is putting together an evaluation on the Women news release. If you have any details about coverage in your national media please could you send it to him at the IS. Thanks - Dina

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

South Korea - 9 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 32/94

Jordan - 22 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/94

South Africa (Bophuthatswana) - 11 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

****Turkey - 30 March**** - This is the new embargo time, although this may also be subject to change, we will let you know as soon as we hear anything more. As soon as the report is printed we will do a special mailing to make sure it gets to press officers in time. SEE NEWS SERVICE 26/94

Hong Kong - 21 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Colombia - 15 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 41/94

South Africa - 31 March - POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

Saudi Arabia - 10 May - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - more details to follow Burundi - 16 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

News Service 46/94

**AI INDEX: MDE 29/WU 01/1994
9 March 1994**

MOROCCO: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES THE COMMUTATION OF 195 DEATH SENTENCES AND CALLS FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN MOROCCO.

Amnesty International welcomes the commutation of 195 death sentences in Morocco and hopes that this will be a step towards the abolition of the death penalty in Morocco.

The 195 prisoners on death row, held in Kenitra Central Prison, included at least two who were sentenced to death during the 1960s and at least three who are now in their 70s. Others are reported to be suffering from severe or incurable diseases, such as tuberculosis; at least 20 are thought to be suffering from psychiatric disorders and over 60 of the prisoners have received no family visits at all.

Fourteen of the prisoners were sentenced for political offences following trials which failed to satisfy international standards for fair trial. Four of these, who were among 71 members of Islamic groups tried in July 1984, were convicted on the basis of confessions extracted under torture and may be prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International has repeatedly called for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Morocco and for the retrial or release of all political prisoners sentenced in unfair trials.

The death penalty has not been implemented in Morocco since 1993. Amnesty International is now urging the Moroccan authorities to take the necessary steps to amend the Moroccan legal code with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all offences. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

ENDS/