

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

16 April 1993

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Two men (names unknown)

Amnesty International fears that two men sentenced to death in the United Arab Emirates are at imminent risk of execution. According to press reports, the two unnamed men (described only as Arab nationals) who were sentenced to death in July 1992 on charges of rape, have now had their sentences confirmed by the Federal High Court. The sentences will now be referred to the President of the United Arab Emirates, al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who is empowered to confirm or reverse the death sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to press reports, two men were sentenced to death by an Abu Dhabi court in July 1992, on charges of kidnapping and raping a mother and her two daughters, aged 12 and 14 years, in the border area between Umm al-Qaiwain and 'Ajman. The court reportedly also held the two men responsible for the death of the grandmother who died after witnessing the attack. The case was appealed before the Federal High Court, which was reported on 15 April 1993 to have confirmed the sentences. The sentences must be referred to the President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, who may exercise clemency, under provisions of the United Arab Emirates' Constitution.

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

- acknowledging the very serious nature of the crimes in this case, and expressing concern for the victims of violent crime;
- expressing regret at the reported death sentences passed on these two men, whose sentences have now been confirmed by the Federal High Court; explaining Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty as the most extreme form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life, irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed;
- urging that the President of the United Arab Emirates exercise his right to grant clemency and commute these two death sentences.

APPEALS TO

His Highness
al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Ruler of Abu Dhabi
Manhal Palace
PO Box 280
Abu Dhabi
The United Arab Emirates
Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM

Salutation: Your Highness

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 May 1993.