

PUBLIC

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UA 25/09 Imminent Execution

YEMEN Bashir Sultan Mohamed al-Ja'fari (m), aged 23

Bashir Sultan Mohamed al-Ja'fari, who is a soldier in the Yemeni army, is facing imminent execution. According to information received by Amnesty International, he could be executed as early as 4 February. He has exhausted all his appeals and the death sentence against him was ratified by the President in October 2008.

Bashir Sultan Mohamed al-Ja'fari was sentenced to death for murder and is detained in the military prison in the capital Sana'a. In August 2006, a military primary Court had sentenced him to pay *diya* (compensation money) for the unintentional murder of a fellow soldier. However, in November 2007, a military appeal court increased his sentence to death. The Military Division of the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence in March 2008. His execution was scheduled to be carried out on 28 January but it was postponed for one week.

At least 13 individuals were executed in Yemen in 2008, and hundreds of prisoners are currently detained under sentence of death.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has long-standing 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. Amnesty International acknowledges the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, and as a violation of the right to life.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities not to execute Bashir Sultan Mohamed al-Ja'fari;
- urging the President to commute Bashir Sultan Mohamed al-Ja'fari's death sentence, and those of all others who are facing imminent execution;
- acknowledging that the government has a right to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities that they are bound by international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence;
- urging the President to commute all outstanding death sentences and establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President
His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
Office of the President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Fax: + 967 127 4147
Salutation: Your Excellency

Attorney General

His Excellency 'Abdullah al-'Ulufi
Office of the Attorney General
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Fax: + 967 137 4412
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Minister of Human Rights

Her Excellency Houda 'Ali 'Abdullatif al-Baan
Ministry for Human Rights
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Fax: + 967 1 444 8333
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Dr Ghazi Shaif al-Aghbari
Ministry of Justice
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

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Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.