

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 31/003/2005

05 April 2005

UA 79/05

Fear of imminent execution

YEMEN

Hafez Ibrahim (m), aged 17

Seventeen-year-old Hafez Ibrahim is reportedly scheduled to be executed on 6 April, for a murder which allegedly committed when he was 16. The Yemeni penal code expressly prohibits the execution of anyone under 18.

He was reportedly not allowed to appeal against the sentence.

According to a report in the daily newspaper *al-Ayyam* on 5 April, Hafez Ibrahim has called for the president to intervene, stop the execution and allow him to appeal against the sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding 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.

While Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

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

- urging the President to prevent the execution Hafez Ibrahim, and stressing that the Yemeni Constitution prohibits the execution of juveniles;
- acknowledging the right of the government to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency General Ali Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sanaa
Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 127 4147

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

His Excellency Dr Rashid Muhammad al-Alimi
Ministry of Interior
Sanaa
Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 332 511
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights
Her Excellency Amat al Aeem al Suswah
Ministry for Human Rights
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 444 838
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 April 2006.