Further information (1) on EXTRA 01/97 (AFR 21/01/97, 6 January 1997) - Death penalty / Legal concern

COMOROS
Said Ali Mohamed
Youssouf Hamadi
Mohamed Youssouf

The three men named above who were convicted of murder and sentenced to death on 31 December 1996, 3 and 4 January 1997 respectively are still detained at Moroni prison. They have been denied the right to appeal up until now and the appeal court is currently not functioning.

In September 1996, Youssouf Ali was denied his right to appeal and publicly executed after he was sentenced to death.

The UA Network should continue their action as requested in the original previous UA. We believe that more appeals could exert the necessary pressure on the authorities to allow the three men their right to appeal and possibly have their sentences commuted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters in French or in your own language:
- expressing concern at the death sentences passed on Youssouf Hamadi, Said Ali Mohamed and Mohamed Youssouf;
- urging that the three men be allowed to exercise their right to appeal to an independent and impartial higher appeal court;
- reiterating Amnesty International's concern at the public execution of Youssouf Ali in September 1996 without his being able to exercise his right to appeal;
- explaining Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases and urging that the death sentences, if confirmed by an appeal court, be commuted to a more humane punishment.

APPEALS TO:

1. President
Mohamed Taki Abdoulkarim
Président de la République
BP 521, MORONI, Comoros
Telegrams: President, Moroni, Comoros
Telexes: 233 PRESIRE KO
Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

2. Minister of Justice
Harimiya Ahmed
Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux et administration penitentiaire
Ministère de la Justice
MORONI, Comoros
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Moroni, Comoros
Telexes: 219 MAERFIC KO
Salutation: Madame le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:
Prime Minister
Ahmed Abdou
Premier Ministre du gouvernement
BP 521, MORONI, Comoros

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Mouthar Ahmed Charif
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération
MORONI, Comoros

and to diplomatic representatives of Comoros accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 April 1997.