AI Index: AMR 25/08/91 Distr: UA/SC

2 May 1991

Further information on UA 82/91 (AMR 25/04/91, 4 March 1991) - Death Penalty

Cuba: Joaquín Emiliano DUENAS CARBONELL

No further news has been received concerning the case of Joaquín Emiliano Dueñas Carbonell, who was sentenced to death in the first instance by a Havana court in February 1991 after being convicted of killing two police officers on 27 December 1990. The case is believed to be either pending appeal in the Tribunal Supremo Popular, People's Supreme Court, or awaiting a ruling by the Council of State, presided by President Fidel Castro, which makes the final decision about whether execution should go ahead.

The first execution known to have taken place in Cuba since July 1989 took place in March when Jorge Luis González Norona was executed after being convicted of the murder of three women (see UA 430/90, AMR 25/05/90, 24 October 1990 and follow-up AMR 25/07/91, 8 April 1991).

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Concern about the use of the death penalty in Cuba is exacerbated by the lack or inadequacy in practice of full judicial guarantees, particularly the right to adequate defence.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the recent execution of Jorge Luis González Norona;
- urging commutation of the death sentence passed on Joaquín Emiliano Dueñas Carbonell, if this has not already occurred;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases.

APPEALS TO:

Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz Presidente del Consejo de Estado Consejo de Estado Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente Castro, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 51212 P DESP PRESID

Dr. José Raúl Amaro Salup Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Popular Tribunal Supremo Popular Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente, Tribunal Supremo Popular,

Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511 457 TSUPO CU

Dr. Carlos Amat Forés Ministro de Justicia Ministerio de Justicia Calle O No. 216, 8vo piso entre 23 y Humboldt Vedado, Ciudad de la Habana Cuba

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511 331 MINJU CU

COPIES TO:

Dr. Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa Fiscal General de la República Fiscalía General de la República San Rafael 3 Ciudad de la Habana Cuba

Granma
Apartado 6260
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Cuba

and to diplomatic representatives of Cuba in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 June 1991.