

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 11/06/96

18 March 1996

Further information on UA 162/95 (MDE 11/13/95, 6 July 1995) and follow-up (MDE 11/20/95, 8 December) - Death Penalty

BAHRAIN'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar

On 17 March 1996 the Bahraini Court Of Cassation upheld the death sentence against 'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar. The sentence will now pass to the Amir, Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, for ratification. The Amir has the power of commutation or pardon.

'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar was sentenced to death by the Bahraini High Criminal Court on 4 July 1995 after being convicted of the murder of a police sergeant in Nuwaidrat on 22 March 1995. The sentence was upheld by an appeals court on 27 November 1995.

Amnesty International is concerned that the trial of 'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar did not comply with the 1984 United Nations Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (paragraph 5), including the right of anyone suspected of, or charged with, a crime for which capital punishment may be imposed to "adequate legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings". In addition, there are fears that the defendant may have been convicted on the basis of a confession extracted under torture.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing regret that the death sentence passed on 'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar has been upheld after cassation;
- urging that the Amir of Bahrain exercise his right to grant clemency and commute the sentence;
- reiterating opposition to the death penalty, emphasising that its campaign to abolish it worldwide is based on the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and pointing out that there is no evidence that the death penalty is an effective deterrent to crime.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness
Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
Office of His Highness the Amir
PO Box 555
The Amiri Court
Rifa'a Palace, Bahrain
Telexes: 8666 Qasar BN; 8500 Qasar BN
Telegrams: His Highness the Amir, al-Manama, Bahrain
Faxes: +973 668884
Salutation: Your Highness

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 May 1996.