

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 11/07/96

26 March 1996

Further information (3) on UA 162/95 (MDE 11/13/95, 6 July 1995) and follow-ups MDE 11/20/95, 8 December 1995, and MDE 11/06/96, 18 March 1996) - Death Penalty

BAHRAIN'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar

'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar was executed by firing squad on 26 March 1996. His family had not been notified prior to his execution and were not allowed to visit him in the past few months. They were told of his execution on 26 March when the authorities called them to attend his burial.

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.

'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 and by the Court of Cassation on 17 March 1996. The sentence then went to the Amir Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa who ratified it.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED FROM THE NETWORK. Thank you to all those who sent appeals. You may, however, wish to write to the Amir:

- expressing deep regret at the execution of 'Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar on 26 March 1996;
- 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.

LETTERS TO:

His Highness

Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

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