

EXTERNAL

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Fear of imminent execution

5 March 1997

**IRAQ 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid, Jordanian national**

**Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi, Jordanian national**

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Amnesty International has received reports that two Jordanians, 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid and Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi are facing imminent execution. They were reportedly sentenced to death on 21 February 1997.

Amnesty International does not at this stage have any information about the charges brought against 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid and Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi but unconfirmed reports suggest they may be connected with drug trafficking.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty is imposed in Iraq for a wide range of criminal and political offences. Iraqi law provides for mandatory capital punishment for drug-related offences and the scope of the death penalty was widened even further to cover at least 18 new offences, when the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), Iraq's highest executive body, introduced a number of decrees in 1994. Offences such as the smuggling of cars, lorries or certain items of construction equipment out of Iraq, committing theft or deserting the army for a third time and offences involving 'sabotage' of the national economy became punishable by death.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and the right to life.

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

- seeking clarification of the charges brought against 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid and Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi and requesting details of trial proceedings followed in this case;
- urging that the death sentences on 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid and Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi be commuted;
- acknowledging the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, a punishment which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and is brutalising to all those involved in its application.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1) H.E. President Saddam Hussain  
President of the Republic  
Presidential Palace  
Karadat Mariam  
Baghdad, Iraq

**Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik**  
**Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) H.E. Muhammad Zamman 'Abd al-Razzaq

Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Baghdad, Iraq

**Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Hassan, Baghdad, Iraq**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Baghdad, Iraq

**Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Regular postal services to Iraq have been suspended since the imposition of sanctions in 1990. However, it appears that postal services to Iraq have resumed in some countries on a limited basis. **Before sending appeals, please check with the postal services in your country to find out what services are available.** If you cannot write directly to Baghdad, send appeals to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

**COPIES TO:** to diplomatic representatives of Iraq accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 April 1997.