

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/01/97

21 March 1997

Further information (1) on UA 267/96 (MDE 16/10/96, 20 November 1996) - Death Penalty

JORDAN Raya Musa (f), aged 35
Hassan Faleh, aged 45

executed: 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat, aged 24
(new name) Salim 'Abdullah Abu Sidreh, aged 27

'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat was executed by hanging at Swarqa Prison at dawn on 11 March 1997. He had been sentenced to death by the Criminal Court having been convicted of committing murder during an attempted rape.

Salim 'Abdullah Abu Sidreh was also executed on 11 March 1997. He had been sentenced to death in a separate case by the Criminal Court in July 1996 also for murder during an attempted rape.

These are the first executions to be carried out in Jordan in 1997.

During the week of 17 March, the Court of Cassation ratified the death sentence of Raya Musa. She had been sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on 19 November 1996 having been convicted of murder. The death sentence imposed on Hassan Faleh in the same case was not upheld by the Court of Cassation which asked the Criminal Court to retry him, stating that he had not actually taken part in the murder.

Amnesty International does not in any way condone violent crime and recognizes the responsibility of governments to punish the perpetrators. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the severest form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is therefore unconditionally opposed to its use.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1996, at least 23 people were sentenced to death in Jordan and ten people were executed. At least 13 people had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal during the same year.

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

- expressing regret at the executions of 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat and Salim 'Abdullah Abu Sidreh on 11 March 1997;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the right and duty of governments to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice, but stating opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- urging that the death sentence on Raya Musa be commuted;
- urging that no further executions be carried out in Jordan and that the new cabinet work to abolish the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

1. His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal

King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Royal Palace
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962 6 627 421
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2. 'Abd al-Salam Majali
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 80
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962 6 642 520
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

3. Riyad al-'Aqasha
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

4. Nazir Rashid
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Arab Organization for Human Rights (Jordan)
PO Box 922430
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

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