

EXTERNAL

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Death penalty

26 January 1998

JORDAN Fateh Suba'i, aged 35

Fateh Suba'i, a Syrian national, was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court on 21 January 1998 after being found guilty of murdering two adults and their child in Amman in June 1997.

The death sentence must be ratified by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal before it can be carried out.

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime and recognizes the role of governments in bringing perpetrators of such crimes to justice. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the ultimate 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

At least 17 people were sentenced to death and 11 people were executed in Jordan in 1997. Others who were sentenced to death are awaiting hearings before the Court of Cassation.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the role of governments in bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to justice;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and which is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging King Hussein bin Talal to commute the death sentence imposed upon Fateh Suba'i on 21 January 1998 to a more humane form of punishment;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

APPEALS TO:

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

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

Riyad Shak'a
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

COPIES 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 9 March 1998.