

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 16/07/98

20 May 1998

Further information on 389/97 (MDE 16/14/97, 11 December 1997) - Death penalty

JORDAN Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali, 52

On 29 April 1998 Jordan's Criminal Court upheld the death penalty imposed on Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali for the murder of his wife.

The Court of Cassation had previously returned his case to the Criminal Court, requesting it to reconsider its judgement. The death sentence must be returned to the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal for ratification before it can be carried out.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Eleven people were executed in Jordan in 1997.

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or Arabic 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, yet stressing your 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 upheld by the Criminal Court in relation to Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali on 29 April 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 on 10 December 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 6 462 7421

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 6 564 2520

Salutation: Your Excellency

Riyad Shak'a

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan

Faxes: +962 6 568 0238

Salutation: Your Excellency

Nazir Rashid

Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan

Interior: + 962 6 560 6908

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 8 July 1998.