

EXTERNAL

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UA 267/96

Death Penalty

20 November 1996

JORDAN'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat, aged 24
Raya Musa (f), aged 35
Hassan Faleh, aged 45

On 10 November 1996 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat, a guard and maintenance worker at a housing complex in Amman, was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court having been convicted of murder during an attempted rape. In another case, the Criminal Court on 19 November 1996 sentenced Raya Musa and Hassan Faleh to death following their conviction on murder charges.

These death sentences must be ratified by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal before they can be carried out.

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

Seven people have been executed by hanging in Jordan during 1996, and at least 14 have been sentenced to death this year. At least 13 people have had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal in 1996.

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

- expressing sympathy to 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 total opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- urging that the death sentences imposed on 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat on 10 November and on Raya Musa and Hassan Faleh on 19 November by the Criminal Court be commuted if they are ratified by the Court of Cassation;
- welcoming recent commutations by His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of death sentences;
- urging that no further executions be carried out in Jordan and that the Jordanian Government 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 6 634 755
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim Kabariti
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) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughami
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Awad Khleifat
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962 6 606 908
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 31 December 1996.