

PUBLIC

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Death penalty

9 July 19

JORDAN Muhammad 'Abed Hussein, 34

In June the Court of Cassation upheld the death penalty imposed on Muhammad 'Abed Hussein. The Criminal Court had recently found him guilty of murdering his wife in a forest in Deir 'Ala.

The death penalty will only be implemented if it is ratified by King 'Abdallah bin Hussein.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After six months during which there were no executions, four people were executed in one week in June 1999. Amnesty International wrote to His Majesty King 'Abdallah bin Hussein, condemning the executions and reiterating its request to His Majesty to work towards the abolition of the death penalty and to introduce an effective moratorium on its use.

Amnesty International does not in any way condone violent crime, but opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Capital punishment has never been shown to have a deterrent effect and a death sentence is irrevocable.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, 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, but 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 His Majesty King 'Abdallah bin Hussein to commute the death sentence on Muhammad 'Abed Hussein;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King 'Abdallah bin Hussein
Office of HM the King
Royal Palace
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: King 'Abdallah bin Hussein, Amman, Jordan

Faxes: + 962 6 463 4755

Salutation: Your Majesty

Mr 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti
Chief of the Royal Court
PO Box 80
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 464 2520
Salutation: Dear Mr al-Kabariti

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 20 August 1999.