

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/12/97

1 September 1997

Further information on UA 267/96 (MDE 16/10/96, 20 November 1996) and follow-up (MDE 16/01/97, 21 March 1997) - Death Penalty

JORDAN           Raya Musa (f), aged 35

and new name:       Khaled Saqa, aged 25

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Raya Musa was executed at Swaqa prison at dawn on 28 August 1997. She had been sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on 19 November 1996 having been convicted of killing her husband with rat poison after he refused her request for a divorce. During the week of 17 March 1997, the Court of Cassation had ratified her death sentence.

Khaled Saqa was also executed on 28 August 1997. He had been sentenced to death in a separate case by the Criminal Court for strangling his sister after she accused him of stealing from her house.

Amnesty International does not in any way condone violent crime and recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators to justice. 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.

The hangings, carried out at Swaqa prison south of Amman, bring to at least 10 the number of people executed in Jordan so far this year. Three of them have been women.

**Participants may send faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English or in your own language:**

- expressing deep regret at the executions of Raya Musa and Khaled Saqa on 28 August 1997;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the right and duty of governments to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice, but stating unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that no further executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work to abolish the death penalty.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**Salutation: Your Excellency**

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**COPIES TO:**

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and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.