

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/14/96

UA 295/96

Death Penalty

18 December 1996

JORDANAmira Salem (f), aged 25

Eidah Hussein (f), aged 25

Two women, Amira Salem and Eidah Hussein, were sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court in late November 1996, having been convicted of murder. The sentences will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal must ratify them before they are carried out.

Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those who have committed crimes. However, the organization opposes the death penalty without reservation as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment and as a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Three executions were carried out within a week of 10 December 1996, Human Rights Day. At least 12 people have been executed in Jordan during 1996. Four women have been sentenced to death this year.

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

- acknowledging the right and responsibility of the government to bring to justice those who have committed crimes, and expressing sympathy with the families of the victims of violent crime;
- 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 that the death sentences against Amira Salem and Eidah Hussein be commuted;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan, and that the government work towards abolition of the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

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
Fax: +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
Fax: +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
Fax: +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 9 February 1997.