

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/14/97

UA 389/97

Death Penalty

11 December 1997

JORDAN Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali, 52

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The Irbid Criminal Court has sentenced Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali to death, after he was found guilty of killing his 40-year-old wife, Amneh Hassan, in Tabaket Fahel in northern Jordan.

The death sentence must be ratified by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal before it can be carried out.

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.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least 10 people have been executed in Jordan so far in 1997. Others are awaiting hearings before the Court of Cassation. In 1996, at least 23 people were sentenced to death and 10 were executed. At least 13 people had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal last year.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/airmail letters in Arabic, French, English 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;
- 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 King Hussein bin Talal to commute the death sentence imposed upon Ahmad Ahmad Bani 'Ali to a more humane form of punishment;

**if possible, also:**

- 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 in 1998;
- explaining that Amnesty International opposes the death penalty wherever it occurs, and for example has sent urgent appeals to the Iraqi authorities concerning the use of the death penalty against five Jordanian nationals, four of whom were executed on 8 December 1997 (see EXTRA 167/97, MDE 14/11/97, 11 December 1997).

#### 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 6 627 421**

**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 6 642 520**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Riyad al-'Aqasha  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Nazir Rashid  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**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 30 January 1998.