

PUBLIC

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UA 206/03 **Fear of imminent execution / Torture / Unfair trial**

JORDAN **'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali (m), aged approximately 22, Iraqi national
Ward Amin 'Abd al-Qader 'Abdallah (m)**

'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali could be executed at any time after the decision by the Court of Cassation (appeal court) in June to uphold the death sentence passed against him after an apparently unfair trial in January 2003. Amnesty International is also concerned at the death sentence passed against Jordanian national, Ward Amin 'Abd al-Qader 'Abdallah, who was tried and convicted for the same crime.

'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali and Ward Amin 'Abd al-Qader 'Abdallah were convicted by the Criminal Court of the murder of Jordanian national, Wisam Hatem 'Abdullah al-Hourani. Amnesty International is extremely concerned at reports that 'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali was tortured while held by the Criminal Investigation Department in the capital Amman in order to force him to "confess" to the crime. The organization has also received reports that his trial proceedings fell short of international standards.

'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali, an Iraqi national, has lived in Amman since arriving in Jordan in 2000. He has no further right of appeal. His death sentence now has to be approved by King 'Abdallah bin Hussein.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has frequently voiced its concerns over reports of the torture and ill-treatment in Jordan of detainees to extract "confessions". The Jordanian Penal Code gives clear conditions for a tribunal to assess and accept a confession as the only evidence in a case. The conditions include that a clear testimony be provided which is not contradictory and matches the crime details. It also stipulates that the authorities and court obtain the confession without force or duress.

So far this year, two people have been executed and at least 15 death sentences have been passed, including two passed in the absence of the defendant. At least 14 people were executed in Jordan during 2002.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- urging that the death sentences of 'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali and Ward Amin 'Abd al-Qader 'Abdallah be commuted;
- reminding the Jordanian authorities that "confessions" made under duress are inadmissible under the terms of the Jordanian Penal Code;
- calling for an immediate and independent investigation into allegations that 'Ali Jabbar Taher 'Ali was reportedly tortured while held at the Criminal Investigation Department;
- noting that governments have not only a right but also an obligation to bring those who plan or perpetrate violent crimes to justice, but that this should be done in accordance with international standards for fair trial;
- expressing concern at the number of executions in Jordan and urging that no more executions are carried out 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
Fax: + 962 6 462 7421
Salutation: Your Majesty

Faris Nabulsi
Minister of Justice
PO Box 6040
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Fax: + 962 6 464 3197
Salutation: Your Excellency

Dr Fayez Tarawneh
Chief of the Royal Court
PO Box 80
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Chief of the Royal Court, Amman, Jordan
Fax: + 962 6 463 1452
Salutation: Dear Dr Tarawneh

COPIES TO:

Her Majesty Queen Rania
President of the Royal Commission on Human Rights
Office of her Majesty the Queen
Royal Palace
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 22 August 2003.