

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 202/93**

**Death Penalty**

**22 June 1993**

**KUWAIT: Walid Jassem MAHDI, Iraqi**

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On 19 June 1993, Kuwait's State Security Court sentenced to death an Iraqi national charged with "collaboration" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. The sentence may be carried out if it is upheld by the Court of Cassation and subsequently ratified by the Amir of Kuwait. It is the seventeenth death sentence passed by the State Security Court this month.

Walid Jassem Mahdi was sentenced to death following his conviction on the following charges: cooperating with Iraqi occupation forces; acting as an informer for them, including revealing the whereabouts of Kuwaiti nationals in hiding at the time; and illegal possession of weapons and ammunition. In addition, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on a separate charge of theft during the occupation. A Kuwaiti national tried in the same case and charged with assisting Walid Jassem Mahdi in committing some of the alleged offences was acquitted.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since April 1992, when the trials of defendants accused of "collaborating" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait opened before the State Security Court, 24 death sentences have been passed (two of them *in absentia*). Of these, one was reduced to life imprisonment by the Court of Cassation, while another sentence was upheld, ratified by the Amir and carried out on 5 May 1993 (see UA 165/93, MDE 17/01/93 of 19 May 1993). On 8 June, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs publicly affirmed that all death sentences ratified by the Amir will be carried out.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- urging that the death sentence passed on Walid Jassem Mahdi be commuted in the event that it is upheld by the Court of Cassation, and that no future death sentences are carried out;
- reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- appealing for the commutation of any death sentences which may be imposed by the State Security Court.

#### **APPEALS TO**

1) His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah  
Crown Prince and Prime Minister  
Al-Diwan al-Amiri  
Al-Safat  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams: His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: + 965 539 6434**

**Salutation: Your Highness**

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2) His Excellency Mshari al-'Anjari  
Minister of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
P O Box 6  
Al-Safat  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams: His Excellency Mshari al'Anjari, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: + 965 246 6957**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
P O Box 3  
Al-Safat  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams: His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: + 965 245 7476 or 242 2948**

**Salutation: Your Highness**

4) Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay al-Bannay  
Public Prosecutor  
Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
P O Box 6  
Al-Safat  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams: Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay al-Bannay, Ministry of Justice, Kuwait  
City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: + 965 246 6957**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Local human rights groups:

(a) Kuwait Association for the Defence  
of War Victims  
P O Box 2211, Al-Salmiyya 22023  
Kuwait

**Faxes: +965 5332233**

(b) Committee for the Defence of Human Rights  
The National Assembly (Parliament)

Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes: +965 2416538**

2) Newspaper:  
Al-Qabas  
P O Box 21800  
Kuwait City 13078, Kuwait  
**Faxes: +965 4834355**

and to diplomatic representatives of Kuwait accredited to your country.  
The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Kuwait in Austria during June at the following address:

KUWAITI EMBASSY:  
The Ambassador  
Botschaft des Staates Kuwait  
Universitätsstr. 5, 1010 Wien  
**Faxes: + 43 1 408 72 63**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 August 1993.