

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 18/04/94
Distr: UA/SC

26 April 1994

Further information on UA 149/94 (MDE 18/02/94, 15 April 1994) - and follow-up (MDE 18/03/94, 20 April) - Death Penalty / Fear of Imminent Execution

LEBANON: Bassam al-Muslah (executed)

'Abd al-Karim Hujayj
Muhammad Za'tar
Ne'meh Hammadi (*in absentia*)
Shaker al-Buraydi

Amnesty International has learned with deep regret that Bassam al-Muslah was executed by hanging, as scheduled, in Sidon on 23 April 1994 at dawn. It is the first execution to have been carried out in Lebanon since 1983.

Amnesty International continues to fear for the lives of 'Abd al-Karim Hujayj, Muhammad Za'tar and Shaker al-Buraydi, particularly in the light of a statement by President Hrawi on 21 April 1994 that "*The era of erecting gallows has begun*".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- expressing deep regret at Bassam al-Muslah's execution, the first judicial execution in Lebanon for 11 years;
- urging that the death sentences of the other four men be commuted as well as other current and future death sentences;
- pointing out that there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty deters violent crime and that there is an inescapable role that innocent people may be executed;
- expressing regret at the resumption of executions and urging the authorities that no further execution be carried out;

APPEALS TO:

1. President Elias Hrawi
Presidential Palace
Ba'abda, Lebanon
Telegrams: President Hrawi, Beirut, Lebanon
Telexes: 21000
Salutation: Your Excellency

2. Rafik Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Beirut, Lebanon
Telegrams: Prime Minister Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

3. Mohsen Dalloul
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Yarzeh, Beirut, Lebanon
Telegrams: Defence Minister Dalloul, Beirut, Lebanon
Telexes: 20901
Salutation: Your Excellency

4. Bahige Tabbarah
Minister of Justice
rue Sami Solh
Beirut, Lebanon

Telegrams: Justice Minister Tabbarah, Beirut, Lebanon

Salutation: Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of LEBANON accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 June 1994.