

PUBLIC

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24 December 2003

UA 370/03 Death penalty/imminent execution

LEBANON Ahmad 'Ali Mansour (m)
Badea' Waleed Hamada (alias Abu Obayda) (m)
Fadi Ahmad Mereish (m)
Remi Antoan Zaatar (m)

Final execution orders have reportedly been signed for the four men named above, and it is expected they will be executed within the next few days. They would be the first people executed in Lebanon since 1998.

Ahmad 'Ali Mansour was convicted of killing eight people in 2002; Badea' Waleed Hamada was convicted of killing three soldiers trying to arrest him in 2002; Remi Antoan Zaatar was convicted of killing three people in an armed robbery; Fadi Ahmad Mereish was convicted of killing a 15-year-old girl in 1998.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, regardless of the crime for which it is imposed, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The finality and cruelty inherent in the death penalty render it incompatible with norms of modern-day civilized behaviour and an inappropriate and unacceptable response to crime.

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

- expressing sympathy for the families and friends of the **alleged** victims of the men named above;
- urging the Lebanese authorities not to execute the men;
- expressing concern at the apparent reintroduction of the death penalty in Lebanon after five welcome years in which no executions were carried out;
- urging the authorities to carry out no more executions in Lebanon, and to work towards abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Emile Lahoud
Office of the President
Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, Beirut
Lebanon

Fax: + 961 1 425 391
Telex: 21000
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Rafiq Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Grand Sérail
Rue des Arts et Métiers
Sanayeh, Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 785 014
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Nabih Berri
Speaker of the National Assembly
National Assembly
Beirut
Lebanon
Fax: + 961 1 982 059/
+ 961 1 793 083
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Bahij Tabbara
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Rue Sami Solh
Beirut
Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 862 622 (ask to send a fax on answer)
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 4 February 2004