

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 21/007/2005

24 June 2005

Further Information on UA 160/05 (MDE 21/006/2005, 13 June 2005) Fear of imminent execution

**PALESTINIAN 30 to 50 Prisoners on Death Row
AUTHORITY (PA)**

On 22 June, President Mahmoud Abbas reportedly ordered a retrial for all those who had been sentenced to death by the notoriously unfair State Security Court. Whilst Amnesty International welcomes this decision, there are still concerns that the prisoners could be executed even after a retrial.

There are also concerns that those who are currently on death row but did not appear before the State Security Court remain at risk of execution. President Abbas's statement came 10 days after the execution of four Palestinians, one of whom had been sentenced by the State Security Court. These were the first executions since August 2002 and officials have indicated that more will follow.

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

- urging President Abbas not to ratify any more death sentences;
- urging that all those who were sentenced to death after unfair trials by courts, whether by the State Security Court or by other courts, be re-tried in compliance with international standards for fair trial;
- noting that, while recognizing the PA's right and responsibility to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life, and pointing out that no convincing evidence has ever been produced that the death penalty is a more effective deterrent than any other punishment.

APPEALS TO: (It can be difficult getting through to fax numbers but please keep trying)

President

President Mahmoud Abbas

Office of the President

Palestinian Authority

Fax: +972 8 282 2365 (If someone answers ask for a fax tone)

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Justice

Farid al-Jallad

Ministry of Justice

Palestinian Authority

Fax: +972 8 282 9286/ + 972 8 282 9197/ + 972 2 240 9472

Email: diwan@hally.net

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Nasser al-Qudwa

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fax: + 972 8 286 8971/ + 972 2 240 3772

Email: mofaweb@gov.ps

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Palestinian Authority (PA) accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 August 2005.