

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/08/97

UA 374/97

Death penalty

28 November 1997

MOROCCO Mohamed BEN ABDELLAH, aged 34, unemployed

On 26 November 1997 Mohamed Ben Abdellah was sentenced to death by a court in Oujda in eastern Morocco.

Mohamed Ben Abdellah was found guilty of the murder of a nine-year old girl in June 1997. The defendant has now eight days to appeal for his case to be reviewed by the Supreme Court through the "cassation" procedures, which only rules on procedural matters and does not re-examine the facts of the case. If the death sentence is upheld by the Supreme Court, the defendant may then present a plea for clemency to King Hassan II.

At least three people have been sentenced to death this year in Morocco, and at least 40 others are reported to remain on death row.

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

- acknowledging the role of governments in bringing those responsible for violent crimes to justice, but expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging that the death sentence against Mohamed Ben Abdellah be commuted if upheld by the Supreme Court.

APPEALS TO:

1) The King

Sa Majesté Hassan II
Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi
Palais Royal
Rabat, Morocco

Telegrams: Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco

Telexes: 31744 or 32908

Salutation: Sire / Your Majesty

2) Minister of Justice

M. Omar Azziman
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Rue Beyrouth
Rabat, Morocco

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Rabat, Morocco

Faxes: +212 7 723 710 / +212 7 738 940

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

The president of the Consultative Council for Human Rights (Official Human Rights Body):

M. Driss Dahak
Président du Conseil Consultatif des Droits d l'Homme (CCDH)
Place des Chouhada, B.P. 1341

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Rabat

Faxes: + 212 7 726856

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 January 1998.