

Further Information on UA 65/03 (MDE 31/002/2003, 6 March 2003) Imminent Execution

YEMEN

Nabil al- Mankali (m), Spanish national

Spanish national, Nabil al-Mankali, is at risk of imminent execution. According to press reports, President Ali Abdullah Saleh ratified the death penalty against Nabil al-Mankali on 11 September. The Supreme Court had reportedly upheld the death sentence against Nabil al-Mankali in March 2003. President Saleh still however, has the power to stop the execution from taking place.

Nabil al-Mankali was convicted on charges of planning acts of sabotage and assassination, in connection with a bombing incident in Aden in July 1997. Nabil al-Mankali and 27 others were reportedly tortured in order to force them to confess to the charges. The "confessions" were then admitted as evidence in court and the 27 co-accused given prison sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial.

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

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

- expressing concern that Nabil al-Mankali is reportedly facing imminent execution;
- urging the President to commute the death sentence and prevent the execution of Nabil al-Mankali;
- acknowledging the right of the government to bring to justice anyone found responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

APPEALS TO:President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE
Faxes: + 967 127 4147 (please persist if you experience difficulties as this number is often busy)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Prime Minister

'Abd al-Qader Bajamal
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 274 662
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Rashid Muhammad al-'Alimi
Ministry of Interior
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 332 511
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights

Amat al Aeem al Suswah

Ministry for Human Rights

Sana'a

Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Minister of Human Rights, Sana'a, Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 419 700

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Yemen and Spain accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 October 2003.
