

# URGENT ACTION

## FIVE MEN AT IMMINENT RISK OF EXECUTION

**Five migrant workers on death row in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are facing execution by firing squad on 12 January. At least one of the men did not receive a fair trial.**

In December 2013 death row prisoners, **Abdullah Ahmad Muhammad, Ateek Ashraf, Kamrul Islam, Muhammad Naif Ali** and **Ravindra Krishna Pillai**, were informed by the prison administration in Sharjah Central Prison in the northern emirate of Sharjah, that they are scheduled to be executed on 12 January 2014. The men, who were convicted in three separate murder trials, were told on 30 November that they had a small amount of time in which they could seek forgiveness and appeal for clemency before being executed by firing squad.

Egyptian national, Abdullah Ahmad Muhammad, is said to be suffering from reduced mental capacity. He has been convicted of murder and was called to the Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi for an appeal hearing in autumn 2013, but was not informed of a final judgement at the time. He had been waiting to be called back for a second hearing to receive the Court's verdict when he was informed of his execution date by prison officials. Sri Lankan national, Ravindra Krishna Pillai, aged 19 at the time, was working as a domestic helper when a family friend of his employer allegedly tried to sexually assault him. Ravindra Krishna Pillai tried to escape the assault, which took place in the family friend's home, by driving away in the man's car and ran him over. He has told Amnesty International that the incident was accidental. He was convicted of intentional murder after an unfair trial during which he had no access to his government-appointed lawyer. Three Bangladeshi nationals, Ateek Ashraf, Kamrul Islam, and Muhammad Naif Ali, were convicted of murder after they were involved in a group fight which resulted in the stabbing of one man. The case was put on hold in the Supreme Court on appeal. The three men were not formally told that the Court had upheld their death sentences until they were told of their execution date by prison officials.

### **Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- Calling on the UAE authorities to stop the execution of the five men (name them) by whatever judicial or other means available;
- Expressing concern that their trials may have been unfair and calling for them to be retried in line with internationally recognized standards for fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty;
- Urging the authorities to declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, commute all outstanding death sentences without delay; and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 FEBRUARY 2014 TO:**

#### President

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Ministry of Presidential Affairs  
Corniche Road  
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 280  
United Arab Emirates  
Fax: +971 2 622 2228  
Email: ihtimam@mopa.ae  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

#### Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Crown Prince Court Bainunah Street  
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 124  
United Arab Emirates  
Fax: +971 2 668 6622  
Twitter: @MBZNews  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

#### **And copies to:**

Vice-President and Prime Minister  
Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Dubai, P.O. Box 2838  
United Arab Emirates  
Fax: + 971 4 353 1974  
Email: info@primeminister.ae  
Twitter: @HHSkMohd

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The UAE rarely carries out death sentences. Since 1997, 12 people are known to have been executed but dozens more death sentences have been passed. Executions are carried out by firing squad and death sentences must be upheld by the Supreme Court and endorsed by the country's President.

The last execution known to have been carried out in the UAE was on 6 December 2012 when Sri Lankan national, Alex Rohana, was killed in Abu Dhabi after being convicted of murdering a UAE national in Al Ain in 2002. Prior to this, 30-year-old Rashid al Rashidi was executed in Dubai on 10 February 2011 following a conviction of the rape and murder of a four-year-old child. In February 2008 a UAE national was executed in the northern emirate of Ras al-Khaimah, for murdering two men.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those convicted of criminal offences but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases and all countries, without exception, regardless of the crime for which the person was condemned or the execution method the state uses. The death penalty violates the right to life and is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Name: Abdullah Ahmad Muhammad, Ateek Ashraf, Kamrul Islam, Muhammad Naif Ali, Ravindra Krishna Pillai  
Gender m/f: m

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