

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 14/01/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 83/94 Death Penalty

3 March 1994

IRAQ Kabed Sabri Sa'id Shahada, Jordanian national, aged 28
 'Ali 'Issa
 Sirwan Hassan
 Ghazi 'Abd al-Majid
 Qais Latif

Kabed Sabri Sa'id Shahada has been sentenced to death in Iraq on drug-related charges. His sentence was upheld by the Court of Cassation on 5 February 1994.

He has been detained in Abu Graib Prison since 1990. He is married with three children, aged three, five and seven.

'Ali 'Issa, Sirwan Hassan, Ghazi 'Abd al-Majid and Qais Latif, whose nationalities are not known, are believed to have been sentenced to death in December 1993, also on charges of drug-trafficking. Amnesty International has raised their cases with the Iraqi authorities, but has received no response.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has frequently expressed its concerns to the Iraqi government about the wide range of political and criminal offences for which the death penalty is provided in Iraq and the numerous executions reported each year. The organization noted that this was not compatible with Iraq's obligations under international law, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by the Government of Iraq on 25 January 1971. Moreover it is inconsistent with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977, which Iraq supported and which reaffirmed that: *"the main objective to be pursued in the field of capital punishment is that of progressively reducing the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed, with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment"*.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, telexes and airmail letters * either in English or in your own language:

- appealing for the commutation of the death sentences against Kabed Sabri Sa'id Shahada, 'Ali 'Issa, Sirwan Hassan, Ghazi 'Abd al-Majid and Qais Latif;
- urging that no further death sentences be passed;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iraq is a state party.

APPEALS TO

1) H.E. President Saddam Hussain
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq
Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) H.E. Ahmad Hussain Khudayyer al-Samarra'i
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Prime Minister al-Samarra'i, Baghdad, Iraq
Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) H.E. Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Hassan, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Minister of Justice al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

* Regular postal services to Iraq have been suspended since the imposition of sanctions in 1990. However, it appears that recently postal services to Iraq have resumed in some countries on a limited basis. **Before sending postal appeals, please check with the postal services in your country to find out what services are available.** If you cannot write directly to Baghdad, send appeals to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Diplomatic representatives of Iraq accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 April 1994.