

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 14/12/97

18 December 1997

**Further information on EXTRA 167/97 (MDE 14/11/97, 11 December 1997) -
Executions / Fear of Further Executions**

IRAQGhalib Ammar Shahab al-Din (note full name), Jordanian national

new name: Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad Salih al-Sabah, 42, Jordanian national

Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad Salih al-Sabah was executed on 14 December 1997 in Abu Ghraib Prison in Baghdad. This brings the total of Jordanian nationals executed in Iraq since 8 December 1997 to five (see original EXTRA). According to reports received by Amnesty International, the five may have been among up to 800 prisoners, mostly Iraqi political prisoners, said to have been executed in Iraq recently.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that more prisoners may be at risk of imminent execution. Such prisoners could include Ghalib Ammar Shahab al-Din, who has been sentenced to death on charges of smuggling. The Jordanian government is said to have been assured by the Iraqi Government that he has not been executed, but it remains unclear whether his sentence has been commuted.

The prisoners may also include Humaid Hatef Hamza, Mardan Suwadi Shadhan Muhawish, 'Ali Hussain 'Askar Jabbar, Haidar Muhammad Ni'ma Majhul, Ghali Muhammad Safi 'Abdullah and 'Athra' Subhi Naiyef Saleh (f), who were sentenced to death by a special court at the Ministry of Interior on 22 July 1997 for involvement in organized prostitution and smuggling alcohol across the border to Saudi Arabia (see EXTRA 132/97, MDE 14/07/97, 7 October 1997). Amnesty International does not at this stage know whether the death sentences passed on these six people have been carried out.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters (see note) in Arabic, English or in your own language:

- expressing grave concern at the execution of Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad Salih al-Sabah;
- urging that any sentence of death passed against Ghalib Ammar Shahab al-Din be commuted;
- seeking further information at reports that up to 800 prisoners may have recently been executed;
- calling for an immediate halt to any further executions;
- stating opposition to the death penalty as the most extreme form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life, irrespective of the crime for which it is imposed.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik

Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) H.E.Muhammad Zamman 'Abd al-Razzaq
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Baghdad, Iraq
Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Hassan, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) H.E.Shabib Lazem al-Maliki
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq
Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Due to a limited and irregular postal service to Iraq, if possible please send a telegram or telex. Alternatively you may write directly to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

COPIES TO: diplomatic representative of Iraq and Jordan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 January 1998.