

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 16/03/95
Distr: UA/SC

UA 169/95

Executions / Fear of further executions

12 July 1995

JORDAN

Executed: Hani 'Abd al-Rahim
Yusef Mashale'
Amin Huwimel
Nimer Rawahneh
Ra'ed Ausheibat

Sentences under review: Khader Jaber
Mubarak Suleiman Mubarak
Khaled 'Isa Fahum
Yusef 'Ayed Smadi
'Imad 'Ayed Smadi

At dawn on 6 July 1995, five men aged between 19 and 27 were executed by hanging in Swaqa Prison near Amman. They had been sentenced to death in two separate trials for rape and murder. Their sentences were upheld by the Court of Cassation on 14 June and ratified by the King on 29 June.

Five other men, sentenced to death on charges of murder, are waiting for their sentences to be reviewed by the Court of Cassation. If the sentences are upheld, they too must be ratified by the King, before they can be carried out. The men were sentenced to death on 29 June in a trial of 12 alleged members of a gang.

Amnesty International does not condone crimes of violence, and recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, it opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The death penalty is inherently unjust and arbitrary, however heinous the crime for which it is enforced. The risk of error is inescapable, yet the penalty is irrevocable.

Detailed research on the subject has provided no evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments.

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Jordanian authorities about the increase in the use of the death penalty since 1993. At least 14 executions were carried out in 1994, the highest number for two decades. A total of six executions have now been carried out so far in 1995. Others remain on death row.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution on 6 July 1995 of Hani 'Abd al-Rahim, Yusef Mashale', Amin Huwimel, Nimer Rawahneh and Ra'ed Ausheibat;
- urging that the death sentences against Khader Jaber, Mubarak Suleiman Mubarak, Khaled 'Isa Fahum, Yusef 'Ayed Smadi and 'Imad 'Ayed Smadi, awaiting review by the Court of Cassation, be commuted in the event that the Court upholds them;
- expressing sympathy for the families of victims of violent crime, but reiterating that while Amnesty International recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring perpetrators of violent crime to justice, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty;
- urging that no future death sentences be passed, no further death penalties be carried out, and urging that Jordan government to sign the Second Optional

Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Royal Palace
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: +962-6-634-755

Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Excellency Sharif Zayd Bin Shaker
Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

PO Box 80

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: +962-6-642-520

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency Hisham al-Tall

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: Minister of Justice

Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Salamah Hammad

Minister of the Interior

Ministry of the Interior

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: +962-6-606-908

Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section Office, if sending appeals after 28 August 1995.