

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: MDE 16/03/97**

**9 April 1997**

**Further information on UA 295/96 (MDE 16/14/96, 18 December 1996) - Death penalty**

**JORDAN Amira Salem (f), aged 25**

**Eidah Hussein (f), aged 25**

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The death sentences imposed on Amira Salem and Eidah Hussein by the Amman Criminal Court in late November 1996 have been ratified by the Court of Cassation 1997. The Court upheld the death sentences during the week of 17 March.

The sentences will be reviewed by the Chief Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice, the Prime Minister and then must be ratified by King Hussein bin Talal before they are carried out. This process usually takes at least one month. The two women are convicted of the murder of Amira Salem's husband, who physically abused her on a regular basis, according to court documents.

Amnesty International does not in any way condone violent crime and recognizes the responsibility of governments to punish the perpetrators. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the severest form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is therefore unconditionally opposed to its use.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Three women are now awaiting news of whether the King will ratify their death sentences and condemn them to execution by hanging. Raya Musa, aged 35, also had her death sentence upheld by the Court of Cassation during the week of 17 March (see further information on UA 267/96, MDE 16/01/97, 21 March). She was also convicted of murder.

Two people have so far been executed in 1997. Others are awaiting hearings before the court of cassation. In 1996, at least 23 people were sentenced to death in Jordan and 10 were executed. At least 13 people had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal last year.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic/English or in your own language:**

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the right and duty of governments to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice, but stating opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- urging that the death sentence on Amira Salem and Eidah Hussein be commuted;
- urging that no further executions be carried out in Jordan and that the new cabinet work to abolish 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 6 627 421**  
**Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan**  
**Salutation: Your Majesty**

2. 'Abd al-Salam Majali

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. Riyad al-'Aqasha

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4. Nazir Rashid

Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Arab Organization for Human Rights (Jordan)

PO Box 922430

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

and 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 22 May 1997.