

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 16/03/99

2 March 1999

Further information on UA 308/98 (MDE 16/18/98, 11 December 1998) - Death penalty

JORDAN Sa'id al-Qashash, aged 19

At the end of February, the Court of Cassation ratified the death penalty imposed on Sa'id al-Qashash for murdering a schoolfriend and 11 relatives in November 1998. King 'Abdallah bin Hussein will now consider whether to ratify the death penalty.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International recognizes the horror caused by such multiple killings, but opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Capital punishment has never been shown to have a deterrent effect and the sentence is irrevocable.

Last year Jordan executed at least nine people.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the role of governments in bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to justice, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and which is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging His Majesty King 'Abdallah bin Hussein to commute the sentence of death on Sa'id al-Qashash and on all other persons sentenced to death;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty
King 'Abdallah bin Hussein
Office of HM the King
Royal Palace
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: King 'Abdallah bin Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 463 4755
Salutation: Your Majesty

Dr Fayez Tarawneh
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 1577
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 464 2520
Salutation: Dear Minister

Jawdat Sboul
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 6040

Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 462 9949
Salutation: Dear Minister

Nayef al-Kadi
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 100
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 560 6908
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 13 March 1999.