

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 16/04/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 235/91 Death Penalty

12 July 1991

JORDAN: 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Abd al-Muhsen Mansur
Qasi Subhi 'Abd al-Rahman Abu Salem
Majed Hasan Dawud al-Saifi
Muhammad Hasan Dawud al-Saifi
Darar Mustafa Dawud al-Saifi (*in absentia*)

These five men are under a sentence of death, without the right of appeal. Four of them were arrested in October 1989 and are currently in prison. Reports indicate that they were tortured during interrogation by the General Intelligence Department to extract confessions. One, Darar Mustafa Dawud al-Saifi, was tried *in absentia*.

The five were charged with belonging to an illegal Palestinian organization; with possession and actual use of explosives for illegal purposes; and with possession for illegal purposes of automatic weapons. The charges were brought under the 1960 Penal Code, the 1953 Law on Explosives and the 1952 Law on Firearms and Ammunition. All five defendants were convicted in March 1991 by the Martial Law Court and sentenced to death.

There is no possibility of appeal against convictions or sentences passed by the Martial Law Court, contrary to international standards for fair trial. King Hussein bin Talal takes all final decisions with regard to death sentences following advice by the Prime Minister. The King may confirm or commute the sentences, or grant a special pardon.

Although Martial Law Directives have been abrogated on 8 July 1991, sentences passed by the Martial Law Court remain valid. Since the beginning of the year Amnesty International has recorded five executions carried out on people sentenced to death by this court. In line with its unreserved opposition to the death penalty anywhere in the world, Amnesty International is appealing for these and all other death sentences in Jordan to be commuted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

(Please limit the number of letters to 20 per section)

- expressing concern at the five death sentences, particularly in light of reports that the defendants were tortured, and the fact that they did not have the right to appeal;
- stressing that Amnesty International recognizes that governments are entitled to bring to justice people involved in violent offences, but opposes the death penalty as a matter of principle, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- appealing for clemency used and for these and all other death sentences in Jordan to be commuted.

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APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal
The Royal Palace
Amman - Jordan

Telexes: 21332 ryl plc jo
21333 ryl plc jo
Faxes: 962 6 634755

His Excellency Taher Masri
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 80
Amman - Jordan

Telexes: 21444 pm jo
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His Excellency Taysir Kan'an
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 6040
Amman - Jordan

COPIES TO:

Diplomatic representatives of Jordan in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 August 1991.