

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/12/96

EXTRA 192/96

Death Penalty

12 December 1996

JORDAN Mahmud Muhammad 'Aswan, aged 38, Egyptian national
Kabud Hamdan Raslan Sabir, aged 20, Egyptian national

executed: 'Umar Ahmad Muhammad Abu Shu'aib, aged 26
Muhammad Na'el Darwish Majdalawi, aged 22

On Human Rights Day, 10 December, Mahmud Muhammad 'Aswan and Kabud Hamdan Raslan Sabir, both Egyptian nationals, were sentenced to death before the Criminal Court. They had been convicted of murder. The total number of death sentences imposed by courts in 1996 in Jordan has now reached 23.

The sentences must now be ratified by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal before they are carried out.

On the same day, 'Umar Ahmad Muhammad Abu Shu'aib was executed by hanging at Swarqa Prison. According to reports he was pronounced dead after 15 minutes. He had been convicted of murder.

Today, 12 December, Muhammad Na'el Darwish Majdalawi was executed at Swarqa Prison, he had also been convicted of murder. He was the ninth person to be executed this year in Jordan.

While Amnesty International sympathizes with the families of the victims of violent crimes, it unreservedly opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the fundamental right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On the anniversary of this declaration, Amnesty International strongly urges the Government of Jordan to take action to reduce crimes punishable by the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it.

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

- expressing your sorrow that on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December, 'Umar Ahmad Muhammad Abu Shu'aib was executed and that two days later on 12 December, Muhammad Na'el Darwish Majdalawi was executed;
- expressing concern that on the same day two Egyptian nationals, Mahmud Muhammad 'Aswan and Kabud Hamdan Raslan Sabir were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court;
- urging that if the Court of Cassation ratifies the death sentences, His Majesty, King Hussein bin Talal, commute them;
- urging that no more death penalties be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

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
Fax: +962 6 634 755
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim Kabariti
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 80
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Fax: +962 6 642 520
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughami
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Awad Khleifat
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Fax: +962 6 606 908
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

Ms Nayla Gabr, The Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 574 9677

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 9 January 1997.