

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/13/97

UA 329/97

Death Penalty

22 October 1997

JORDAN

Othman Haroun, 24

Muhammad Sweilem, 21

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On 11 October 1997, Othman Haroun and Muhammad Sweilem were sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court. They were found guilty of killing 'Abdallah 'Ali Nawafleh, a 70-year-old man, in the suburb of Nawafleh, southern Jordan, on 9 October 1996.

The death sentence must be ratified by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal before it can be carried out.

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime and recognizes the responsibility of governments to punish the perpetrators. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the ultimate 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

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

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/airmail letters in Arabic, French, English or 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;
- 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 King Hussein bin Talal to commute the death sentence against Othman Haroun and Muhammad Sweilem to a more humane form of punishment;
- urging that no more executions 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:

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

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan**

**Faxes: +962 6 627 421**

**Salutation: Your Majesty**

'Abd al-Salam Majali  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
PO Box 80

Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: +962 6 642 520**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Riyad al-'Aqasha  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Nazir Rashid  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, 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 3 December 1997.