

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 16/15/97

UA 396/97

Death penalty

17 December 1997

JORDAN      Ahmad Muhammad, 27  
              Ahmad Salim, 24  
              Yasser Muhammad, 20  
              Sa'id Mahmud, 24  
              'Eid Muhammad, 29  
              Muhammad Khalil, 60  
              Mahmud Khalil, 55  
              Mifdi Khalil, 70

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Amnesty International has recently learned that the eight above-named family members were sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court at the end of October 1997, after being found guilty of the murder of Salim Salama, aged 49, and his son Jamil Salama, aged 20, on 20 October 1993.

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

Amnesty International does not condone violent crime and recognizes the role of governments in bringing perpetrators of such crimes to justice. However, the organization considers the death penalty to be the ultimate 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 INFORMATION**

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

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/airmail letters in Arabic, English or 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;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, in whichever country it is applied, since it has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and because it is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging King Hussein bin Talal to commute the death sentences imposed upon Ahmad Muhammad, Ahmad Salim, Yasser Muhammad, Sa'id Mahmud, 'Eid Muhammad, Muhammad Khalil, Mahmud Khalil and Mifdi Khalil, at the end of October 1997, 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 31 January 1997.