

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**6 July 1994**

**Further information on UA 288/93 (MDE 17/07/93, 24 August 1993) - Death Penalty**

**KUWAIT Muhammad 'Ali Qulaib al-Rashidi, aged 28 (note full name)**

On 4 June 1994 the Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence imposed on Muhammad 'Ali Qubaib al-Rashidi on 21 August 1993 by the Criminal Court. The latter had found him guilty of leading a gang-rape of a 10-year-old Egyptian girl. His sentence was upheld in the High Court of Appeal before going to the Court of Cassation. The sentence may now be carried out if it is ratified by the Amir of Kuwait.

The Court of Cassation also upheld the prison sentences passed on three other men, all aged 17, who were convicted of taking part in the crime.

While recognizing the brutality of the crime for which Muhammad 'Ali Qubaib al-Rashidi was convicted, Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Unlike the procedures followed in the State Security Court, defendants tried before the Criminal Court have the right to a full appeal in the High Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation. The Amir of Kuwait must ratify any death sentence before it may be carried out. To Amnesty International's knowledge, two other death sentences were imposed by the Criminal Court during 1993: Muhammad Najib was sentenced to death on 15 December 1993 and Kamal Matar was executed on 14 December.

In the past month the Court of Cassation reduced the death sentences imposed by the State Security Court on 11 people convicted of "collaboration" with Iraqi forces during their occupation of Kuwait three years ago. However, six men were sentenced to death before the State Security Court in June following their conviction on charges of participating in an alleged assassination attempt on the former United States president, George Bush, during his visit to Kuwait in April 1993.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- while recognizing the brutality of the crime for which Muhammad 'Ali Qulaib al-Rashidi was convicted, reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that the death sentence passed on Muhammad 'Ali Qulaib al-Rashidi be commuted, and that no further death sentences be carried out.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1) His Highness Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah  
Amir of the State of Kuwait  
Al-Diwan al-Amiri  
Al-Safat  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams:** His Highness Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 539 6434  
**Salutation:** Your Highness

2) His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah  
 Crown Prince and Prime Minister  
 Al-Diwan al-Amiri  
 Al-Safat  
 Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams:** His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 539 6434  
**Salutation:** Your Highness

3) His Excellency Mshari al-'Anjari  
 Minister of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
 Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
 PO Box 6, Al-Safat, Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams:** His Excellency Mshari al-'Anjari, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 246 6957  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

4) Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay al-Bannay  
 Public Prosecutor  
 Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
 PO Box 6, Al-Safat, Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Telegrams:** Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay al-Bannay, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 246 6957  
**Salutation:** Dear Sir

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Local human rights groups:

(a) Kuwait Association for the Defence of War Victims  
 PO Box 2211, Al-Salmiyya 22023, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 533 2233

(b) Committee for the Defence of Human Rights  
 The National Assembly (Parliament)  
 Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 241 6538

2) Newspaper:

Al-Qabas  
 PO Box 21800, Kuwait City 13078, Kuwait  
**Faxes:** +965 4834 355

and to diplomatic representatives of KUWAIT accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 August 1994.