

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 28/13/93

Distr: UA/SC

1 September 1993

Further information on UA 174/93 (MDE 28/08/93, 27 May 1993) - Death Penalty / Fear of further executions

ALGERIA: Abderrahim Hocine  
Rachid Hechaichi  
Karim Fennour  
Jamal Chikou  
Meliani Mansouri  
Said Soussan

---

Amnesty International has learned with dismay of the execution by firing squad on 31 August 1993 of Abderrahim Hocine, Rachid Hechaichi, Karim Fennour, Jamal Chikou, Meliani Mansouri, Said Soussan and Mohamed Aimet.

They had been sentenced to death on 26 May 1993 by the Special Court in Algiers, on charges of terrorist attacks including planning and carrying out the bombing of Algiers airport on 26 August 1992. Their death sentences were upheld on 18 August 1993 by the Supreme court, which only rules on procedures and does not re-examine facts, thus failing to safeguard the detainees' right of appeal.

Following the bombing of the airport some of those executed on 31 August were arrested; their confessions were shown on Algerian television and there were allegations that the confessions had been extracted under torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over 250 death sentences have been passed this year in Algeria, most of them by the three Special Courts, in trials which do not conform to international standards for fair trial. The Special Courts were set up in October 1992 by a decree which provides for accelerated and secret justice for those accused of "terrorist" offences, doubling the sentences for such offences. The law is retroactive, inasmuch as any case under instruction or awaiting judgment can be transferred to the Special Courts and thus be subjected to increased penalties which did not apply at the time of the offence.

In January 1993 the first executions were carried out since 1989, and it is feared that further executions will be carried out.

Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice and to punish those responsible for criminal offences but unconditionally 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 by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, the death penalty has never been shown to have a deterrent effect against those who perpetrate crimes.

It is feared that further executions may be carried out in Algeria.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Abderrahim Hocine, Rachid Hechaichi, Karim Fennour, Jamal Chikou, Meliani Mansouri, Said Soussan, Mohamed Aimet;
- expressing concern that over 250 people have been sentenced to death in Algeria this year in trials which fall short of international standards for fair trial;
- reiterating that whilst Amnesty International does not condone acts of violence and recognizes the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for such acts, the organization unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging the Algerian President not to reject the pleas for clemency when these are presented to him, and to commute all death sentences as a step towards the abolition of the death penalty;

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President

Président M. Ali KEFI  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
El-Mouradia  
Alger, Algérie

**Telegrams: President Kefi, Alger, Algérie**

**Faxes: + 213 2 609618**

**Telexes: 66044/66088**

**Salutation: Excellence/Your Excellency**

2) Prime Minister

M. Redha MALEK  
Chef du Gouvernement  
Palais du Gouvernement  
Alger, Algérie

**Telegrams: Ministre Malek, Alger, Algérie**

**Telexes: 66217/66221**

**Salutation: Excellence/Your Excellency**

3) High Council of State Member

M. Ali HAROUN  
Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Palais du Gouvernement  
Alger, Algérie

**Telegrams: M. Haroun, Palais de Gouvernement, Alger, Algérie**

**Telexes: 66217/66221/66044/66088**

**Salutation: Excellence/Your Excellency**

**PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS to the following Human Rights**  
**Organizations:**

Observatoire national des droits de l'homme

Palais du Peuple

Avenue F. Roosevelt

Alger, Algérie

**Faxes: +213 2 60 10 42**

Ligue algérienne des droits de l'homme

40-42 rue Larbi ben M'Hidi

Alger, Algérie

Ligue algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme

19 rue Abane Ramdane

Alger, Algérie

and to diplomatic representatives of Algeria accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 October 1993.