

EXTERNAL

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Death penalty

13 February 1997

MOROCCO/WESTERN SAHARAHamad AL-ANSARI, born in 1968

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Amnesty International has learned that on 15 January 1997 Hamad Al-Ansari was sentenced to death by a court in Laayoune.

Hamad Al-Ansari was found guilty of the murder of a colleague in Laayoune by using a rifle stolen from the local police. The defendant denied the charges.

Hamad Al-Ansari has now appealed for his case to be reviewed by the Supreme Court through the "cassation" procedure, which only rules on procedural matters and does not re-examine the facts of the case. If the death sentence is upheld by the Supreme Court, the defendant may then present a plea for clemency to King Hassan II.

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

- urging that the death sentence against Hamad Al-Ansari be commuted if upheld by the Supreme Court;

- explaining that while 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 and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life, as guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Morocco is a state party.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) The King

Sa Majesté Hassan II  
Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi  
Palais Royal  
Rabat, Morocco

**Telegrams: Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco**

**Telexes: 31744 or 32908**

**Salutation: Sire / Your Majesty**

2) Minister of Justice

M. Abderrahmane Amalou  
Ministre de la justice  
Ministère de la justice  
Palais de la Manounia  
Rabat, Morocco

**Telegrams: Ministre Abderrahmane Amalou, Rabat, Morocco**

**Faxes: + 212 7 723710**

**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

The president of the Consultative Council for Human Rights (Official Human Rights Body)

M. Driss Dahak  
Président du Conseil Consultatif des Droits d l'Homme (CCDH)  
Place des Chouhada, B.P. 1341  
Rabat

**Faxes: + 212 7 726856**

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 March 1997.