

PUBLIC

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Fear of e

**YEMEN**Muhammad al-Haj al-Jabr  
al-'Azi al-Jaru  
'Ali al-Khashbi  
'Abd al-Khaleq Sharak  
'Ali al-Jawfi  
Muhammad al-Hudhayri  
Muhammad al-Haruni

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The seven men named above were reportedly sentenced to death on 19 June, convicted of murder, kidnapping and armed robbery.

They were part of a group of 40 defendants. The group's leader, Muhammad al-Haj al-Jabr, was sentenced to death and crucifixion. His body will be crucified for three days in a public square.

Eleven other defendants were reportedly sentenced to prison terms of seven to 15 years. Seven of these were released, having already served their sentences awaiting trial. Most of those sentenced to jail terms had been convicted of armed robbery and resisting arrest.

Amnesty International's concern for these prisoners is heightened by an apparent trend in Yemen towards speedy executions after unfair trials. In March 1997 Muhammad Ahmad Mislah al-Nadhiri was executed five days after he was first sentenced to death by the Court of First Instance. Later that year two other men were executed five months after they were sentenced to death and crucifixion. In both cases, the defendants were reportedly denied adequate opportunity to present a defence.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of all governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing concern at the sentences of death and crucifixion, and urging that they be commuted if upheld on appeal;
- acknowledging the Yemeni government's right to bring to justice anyone found responsible for recognizably criminal offences, but expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life;
- reminding the government of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings, the right to appeal, and the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh  
President of the Republic of Yemen  
Sana'a  
Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Yemen**  
**Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE**

**Faxes: + 967 1 274 147**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen  
Sana'a  
Republic of Yemen  
**Faxes: + 967 1 282 669**  
**Salutation:Your Excellency**

Minister of Interior  
Hussain Muhammad 'Arab  
Ministry of Interior  
Sana'a  
Republic of Yemen  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen**  
**Faxes: + 967 1 251 529 / 251 566**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice  
Isma'il Ahmad Al-Wazir  
Ministry of Justice  
Sana'a, The Republic of Yemen  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Sana'a, Yemen**  
**Faxes: + 967 1 252 138**  
**Salutation:Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 August 2000.