

URGENT ACTION

BANGLADESHI MAN FACING DEATH PENALTY

On 24 October, the Supreme Appeal Court of Bahrain upheld the death sentence of Russell Mezan, a Bangladeshi man sentenced to death after being convicted of murdering a Kuwaiti man.

Russell Mezan was sentenced to death on 23 March 2010 by the High Criminal Court of Bahrain. He was convicted of the premeditated murder of a Kuwaiti man in a hotel in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, on 7 March 2009. Russell Mezan's lawyer lodged an appeal against the sentence on the same day it was issued, as Russell Mezan said that he and the Kuwaiti man were drunk on the night of the murder and that he did not intend to kill him.

The case was heard before the Supreme Appeal Court of Bahrain on 24 October and the death sentence was upheld. Amnesty International delegates visiting Bahrain met Russell Mezan's lawyer on 25 October, who confirmed that he will appeal to the Court of Cassation within 45 days. If the appeal fails, the death sentence will then pass to the King for final ratification within two or three months. If the death sentence is ratified by the King, Russell Mezan will face execution, probably by firing squad.

In July 2010 another Bangladeshi national, Jassim Abdulmanan, was executed after his death sentence was upheld in April 2009.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Calling for His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa not to ratify the death sentence of Russell Mezan;
- Acknowledging that the government has the right and responsibility to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as it is the ultimate cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment.
- Urging the King to commute the sentences of all those facing possible execution in Bahrain.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 07 DECEMBER 2010 TO:

The King

His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al
Khalifa
King of Bahrain
Office of His Majesty the King
P. O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: + 973 176 64 587
Salutation: Your Majesty

And copies to:

Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of
Bahrain
His Excellency Md. Ali Akbar
House 674; Road 3213; Area 332;
Al Mahooz, Manama, Bahrain
Tel: 973-17741976
Fax: 973-17741927; 973-17822532
Salutation: His Excellency

Minister of Justice

His Excellency
Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al
Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs
P.O. Box 13
Al-Manama
Bahrain
Salutation: His Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 71/10 MDE 11/001/2010. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/001/2010/en>

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