

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 11/04/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**23 September 1992**

**Further information on UA 282/92 (ASA 11/03/92, 8 September 1992) - Death Penalty / Fear of further executions**

**AFGHANISTAN: Sayed Sakander**

**Mohammad Gul**

**Mohammad Rafit**

**and new name: Mohammad Qasim**

---

Following the public hanging of Sayed Sakander, Mohammad Gul and Mohammad Rafit on 7 September 1992 a further public execution has been reported. Mohammad Qasim was executed in the town of Jalalabad on 15 September. The execution was carried out by the brother of the murder victim and was reportedly watched by a crowd of several thousand people. This brings to eight the number of reported executions since the Mujahideen assumed power in April 1992. A government spokesman has said that other, similar cases are pending in court and Amnesty International fears that further executions may follow.

As in the case of the seven earlier executions, the accused had reportedly been convicted of murder by an Islamic court. Mohammad Qasim's trial reportedly lasted one week, and it is not clear whether the accused had the right of appeal and the right to seek pardon or commutation as required by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. One report quotes the press in Afghanistan as stating that the court had been guided by the principle "a life for a life".

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send express and airmail letters preferably in English or your own language:**

- expressing extreme concern about this most recent public execution and urging that no further executions take place;

- urging the government to ensure that all trials conform to international standards for fair trial;

- pointing out that international standards require that all those sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence;

- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Burhanuddin Rabbani  
Head of the Islamic State of Afghanistan  
Office of the President

**Salutation: Dear President**

Kabul  
Afghanistan

The communications system in Afghanistan remains unreliable. Please therefore also send letters to the diplomatic representative of Afghanistan in your country with the request that they be forwarded to President Rabbani.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**