

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 414/93 (MDE 16/05/93, 23 November 1993) - Death penalty

JORDAN: 'Uthman Sa'id Dhaher Subh  
Kamal 'Alam al-Din  
Hasan Abu al-Janin  
Nayef Mustafa 'Isa Ghnaym  
Mustafa Muhammad Mustafa Mursi  
Saber 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan al-'Abdullah  
Saleh Musleh Abu 'Ain  
'Imad Muhammad 'Abdullah Musleh  
Ahmad Muhammad 'Abdullah  
Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahab al-Sharbini  
Muhammad Ahmad Tawfiq al-Bzur  
'Abd al-Sadeq Mahmud  
Munzer Ya'qub  
Ma'ruf Farghali  
Subhi Sukkar

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Amnesty International remains deeply concerned that prisoners on death row in Jordan, including some or all of the 15 people named above, may be at imminent risk of execution.

This concern is heightened by the execution of two men on 27 January 1994. The two men, in their late twenties and identified only by the initials S.Sh. and Y.Q., were reportedly hung in Swaqa prison after conviction of murder and robbery.

The 15 people named above, and possibly others, are still believed to remain on death row in Jordan. Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for their lives in the present circumstances. Prisoners awaiting executions are not told when it will take place until hours beforehand.

Amnesty International is profoundly saddened by the early resumption of executions in 1994. Twelve executions were recorded in Jordan in 1993, the highest number in over twenty years.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International does not condone crimes of violence such as murder, and recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, it opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The death penalty is inherently unjust and arbitrary, however heinous the crime for which it is enforced. The risk of error is inescapable, yet the penalty is irrevocable. The overwhelming conclusion from studies on the topic is that there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty helps avoiding other serious harm, for example by deterring crimes.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution on 27 January 1994 of two men in Swaqa prison;

- stating that Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and in all countries as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- emphasising that there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty helps avoiding other serious harm, for example through deterring crime;

- urging that all current and future death sentences be commuted, as a clear indication of Jordan's commitment to human rights.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal  
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
The Royal Palace  
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Faxes: +962-6-634-755**

**Salutation: Your Majesty**

2) His Excellency Dr Abd al-Salam al-Majali  
Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

PO Box 80

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Faxes: +962-6-642-520**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3) His Excellency Rateb al-Wazzani  
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) His Excellency Salamah Hammad

Minister of the Interior

Ministry of the Interior

Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Faxes: +962-6-606-908**

**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Amman, Jordan**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 March 1994.