

EXTERNAL

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UA 98/96

Death penalty

10 April 1996

JORDAN'Usama 'Abd al-Latif Husni, aged 19, shoemaker

On 31 March 1996, Usama 'Abd al-Latif Husni was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court in Amman. The death sentence will be reviewed before the Court of Cassation and, if upheld, must be ratified by King Hussein bin Talal before it can be carried out.

'Usama Abd al-Latif Husni was found guilty of the premeditated murder of his eldest brother, 'Uqba. Although his family dropped charges against him, the presiding judge said the defendant should not benefit from any reduction in sentence "because of the heinous nature of the crime". According to the prosecution, 'Usama was jealous because of his father's favouritism of 'Uqba.

Amnesty International does not condone crimes of violence, 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. Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Jordanian authorities about the increase in the use of the death penalty over the last two years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least six people have been sentenced to death in 1996. Two death penalties are known to have been carried out this year: on 12 March 1996, Da'ud Khalaf al-Asmara and 'Abd al-Karim al-Daja were executed. In 1995 at least 12 people were executed, including, Hani 'Abd al-Rahim, Yusef Mashale, Amin Huwimed, Nimer Rawahaneh and Ra'ed Ausheibat.

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

- urging that the death sentence imposed on 'Usama 'Abd al-Latif Husni be commuted in the event that it is upheld by the Court of Cassation;
- stating unconditional opposition to the death penalty and urging that no future executions be carried out;
- urging the Jordanian Government to sign the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

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
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim Kabariti
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 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughami
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Awad Khleifat
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962 6 606 908
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 25 May 1996.