

**PUBLIC**

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**Death Penalty/Torture/Legal concern**

**3 August 2000**

**JORDAN**

**Bilal Musa**

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Bilal Musa has been convicted of 11 murders, and is awaiting trial for a twelfth. He has admitted one of the killings, but says he was tortured to make him confess to the others. The evidence to connect him to most of the other crimes was reportedly thin and he may have been used by the police as a scapegoat for unsolved cases.

An appeal to the Court of Cassation (which may only consider the trial procedures, and not the substance of the case) was rejected in July. After the final murder trial his death sentence will be passed to the King for ratification.

Bilal Musa was sentenced to death in April 2000. He has confessed to killing one man. However, he has alleged that he was tortured to force him to confess to the other killings, which took place between 1994 and 1998. He stated in court that he was denied sleep, beaten and hung up by his arms. His lawyer had also mentioned in court that his client had been tortured in detention.

His wife, Suzan Ibrahim, was also sentenced to death, for her complicity in one of the murders. The Court of Cassation overturned her death sentence when it upheld his.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At least four people have been executed in Jordan this year.

Amnesty International does not in any way condone violent crime, but opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Capital punishment has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and a death sentence is irrevocable.

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

- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families and acknowledging the role of governments in bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to justice, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, which has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and which is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging His Majesty King ‘Abdallah bin Hussein to commute the death sentence passed on Bilal Musa;
- urging that no more no executions be carried out in Jordan and that the government work towards abolishing the death penalty;
- expressing concern that Bilal Musa was reportedly tortured to force him to confess, and asking that this allegation be investigated and anyone found to have used torture be brought to justice.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

His Majesty King ‘Abdallah bin Hussein  
Office of H.M. the King  
Royal Palace  
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Telegrams: King ‘Abdallah bin Hussein, Amman, Jordan**

**Faxes: + 962 6 463 4755**

**Salutation:      Your Majesty**

Dr Fayez Tarawneh  
Chief of the Royal Court  
PO Box 80  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Fax:                + 962 6 463 1452**

**Salutation:      Dear Dr Tarawneh**

**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 12 September 2000.