

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 414/93 Death penalty

23 November 1993

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

Amnesty International is 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 greatly heightened by the recent upsurge in executions in the country during 1993.

Twelve executions have taken place so far in 1993, the highest number recorded by Amnesty International in over two decades. The organization is profoundly saddened by this rising trend, particularly since no executions took place in 1992 after King Hussein bin Talal had repeatedly intervened to commute death sentences.

The most recent executions to take place were of two men and a woman in Swaqa Prison on 18 November 1993. They have been identified only as Ahmad A.N., 'Abd al-Fattah S.A, and Tamathil S.S. All three were reported to have been convicted of murder.

In August, five men were executed. Two had been convicted of spying for the enemy by the State Security Court without the right of appeal against their conviction and sentence.

In the present circumstances, Amnesty International is extremely concerned for the lives of those on death row. Prisoners awaiting execution are not told when it will be carried out until hours beforehand. Their families are informed only afterwards. Amnesty International is calling for all current and future death sentences to be commuted by King Hussein bin Talal.

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. There is no reliable evidence that the death penalty helps to prevent other violence, for example by deterring crime.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution on 18 November 1993 of two men and a woman in Swaga Prison;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan, and that all current and future death sentences be commuted, in line with the encouraging trend of 1992;
- 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 to prevent other violence, for example by deterring crime.

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, Amman, Jordan

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 4 January 1994.