

EXTERNAL

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Death penalty

17 July 1997

JORDAN 'Umar Saleh (48)

Na'im Saleh (21)

Nash'at Saleh (19)

On 8 July 1997 the Amman Criminal Court sentenced to death 'Umar Saleh and his two sons, Na'im and Nash'at, after they were found guilty of killing a 28-year-old man in Tafileh in April 1996. The death sentences will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation and King Hussein bin Talal must ratify them before they are carried out.

Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those who have committed crimes. However, the organization opposes the death penalty without reservation as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment and as a violation of the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND

Eight people have so far been executed in 1997. Others are awaiting hearings before the Court of Cassation. In 1996, at least 23 people were sentenced to death in Jordan and 10 were executed. At least 13 people had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by King Hussein bin Talal last year.

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

- acknowledging the right and responsibility of the government to bring to justice those who have committed crimes, and expressing sympathy with the families of the victims of violent crime;
- 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 that the death sentences against 'Umar, Na'im and Nash'at Saleh be commuted;
- urging that no more executions be carried out in Jordan, and that the government work towards abolition of the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

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
Fax: +962 6 634 755
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2. 'Abd al-Salam 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. Riyad al-'Aqasha

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Your Excellency

4. Nazir Rashid

Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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 28 August 1997.