

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 17/06/96

UA 159/96

Death penalty

28 June 1996

KUWAITKuwaiti police officer (name unknown)

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On 24 June 1996, the Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence passed on a captain in the Kuwaiti police force convicted of drowning a Syrian woman with whom he had a relationship. The death sentence now passes to the Amir of Kuwait for ratification.

According to press reports from Kuwait, the court ruling said that the police captain decided to kill the woman because "she repeatedly came to his house and workplace pestering him to marry her". His death sentence, together with three years' imprisonment for illegal possession of drugs and firearms, had reportedly been confirmed by the Court of Appeal in October 1995. The Court of Cassation is also reported to have upheld a sentence of life imprisonment for the captain's brother who was convicted of taking part in the crime.

While recognizing the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes, Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- while recognizing the seriousness of the crime in this case, explaining your unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to be a more effective deterrent than other punishments and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- (in appeals to the Amir) urging him not to ratify the death sentence passed on the Kuwaiti captain; (in other appeals) calling on the authorities to urge the Amir not to ratify the sentence;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, the desirability of which was reaffirmed in Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977 of the United Nations General Assembly.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) His Highness Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah  
Amir of the State of Kuwait  
Al-Diwan al-Amiri  
Al-Safat

Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Telegrams: Amir, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: +965 539 6434**  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

2) His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah  
Crown Prince and Prime Minister  
Al-Diwan al-Amiri  
Al-Safat

Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: +965 539 6434**  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

3) His Excellency Mshari al-'Anjari  
Minister of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs  
PO Box 6, Al-Safat, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Kuwait City, Kuwait**  
**Faxes: +965 246 6957**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Committee for the Defence of Human Rights  
The National Assembly (Parliament)  
Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Faxes: +965 245 0952**

2) Newspaper:  
Al-Qabas  
PO Box 21800, Kuwait City 13078, Kuwait  
**Faxes: +965 4834 355**

3) **Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)**  
**Faxes: +965 246 9549**

and to diplomatic representatives of KUWAIT accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 August 1996.