

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 149/94 (MDE 18/02/94, 15 April 1994) - Death Penalty / Fear of Imminent Execution

LEBANON: Bassam Salah al-Muslah  
'Abd al-Karim Hujayj  
Muhammad Za'tar  
Ne'meh Hammadi (in absentia) (note corrected name)

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and new name: Shaker al-Buraydi

According to reports, the Commission des grâces has recommended to President Elias Hrawi that Bassam al-Muslah be executed. The President has apparently confirmed the sentence. The file is now being passed to the Minister of Justice for preparation of the decree of execution and it has been reported that the execution may take place on 23 April 1994.

The Commission des grâces is also reported to be due to consider the death sentences passed on 'Abd al-Karim Hujayj, Muhammad Za'tar and Ne'meh Hammadi on 22 April. They were sentenced to death on 12 April 1994 by the Court of Justice. There was no right of appeal. The decision of the commission will then be passed on to the Minister of Justice, who in turn will pass it to the President, who has the power of commutation.

Amnesty International has just learned that on 17 April, another man, Shaker al-Buraydi, was sentenced to death by a military court. He was convicted of having killed three policemen in March 1994.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters in English, Arabic, French or your own language:**

- urging that Bassam al-Muslah not be executed;
- urging that the death sentences of the other four men be commuted as well as any other current or future death sentences;
- pointing out that there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty deters violent crime and that there is an inescapable risk that innocent people may be executed;
- expressing regret at the recent expansion of the death penalty in Lebanon, and urging that all legislation providing for the death penalty be reviewed. The number of capital offences should be reduced with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President Elias Hrawi  
Presidential Palace  
Ba'abda, Lebanon  
**Telegrams: President Hrawi, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Telexes: 21000**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2. Rafik Hariri  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

3. Mohsen Dalloul  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Yarzeh, Beirut, Lebanon

**Telegrams: Defence Minister Dalloul, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Telexes: 20901**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4. Bahige Tabbarah  
Minister of Justice  
rue Sami Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Telegrams: Justice Minister Tabbarah, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**