

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

12 November 1992

LIBYA:

Six men, names not known to Amnesty International

Amnesty International is concerned to learn of the first officially announced executions for over five years in Libya. According to reports, Libyan television announced on 10 November 1992 that six men had been sentenced to death and executed that morning after having been convicted of criminal offences including rape and murder. The next day, pictures were shown on television of the six men prior to their execution.

These are the first executions to be officially announced since February 1987, when nine people, accused of politically-motivated crimes, were executed. Amnesty International fears that these new executions could herald increased use of the death penalty in Libya in the future.

According to Libya's Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP), capital offences are tried by the criminal section of courts of appeal. The CCP provides for automatic review of death sentences by the Court of Cassation. All death sentences require ratification by the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, Libya's highest authority since 1977. Executions generally take place in prisons. In March 1988 Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi called for the abolition of the death penalty in Libya and its replacement with other punishments. The Great Green Document on Human Rights in the Era of the Masses, adopted in June 1988, stated that the death penalty would be applied "only to he whose life constitutes a danger or corruption to society", and set abolition as an aim of Libyan society.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization deeply regrets these executions and has expressed its concern via message to Colonel Gaddafi. It is seeking further details from the authorities and is appealing for any other death sentences to be commuted and for the death penalty to be abolished.

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

- expressing regret that six men were executed on 10 November 1992;
- seeking information about those executed, including details of the legal proceedings followed leading up to their death sentences being imposed and

carried out;

- referring to Colonel Gaddafi's 1988 call for abolition of the death penalty and appealing for commutation of all death sentences;
- calling for the abolition of the death penalty in Libya.

Page 2 of UA 352/92

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency
Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi
Leader of the Revolution
Office of the Leader of the Revolution
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Telegrams: Colonel al-Gaddafi, Tripoli, Libya
Telexes: 70 0901 20162 ALKHASU LY

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency
Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari
Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liason
and International Cooperation
Secretariat of the People's Committee of the People's
Bureau for Foreign Liason and International Cooperation
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.