

PUBLIC

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10 June 1998

Further information on Extra 37/98 (MDE 19/05/98, 28 May 1998) - Death Penalty / Imminent execution

**LIBYA Charles Joseph Ansah
J.K. Blankson
Asare Mustapha Bediako**

Amnesty International has learned that the Ghanaian Ministry of Foreign Affairs managed to obtain a reprieve for Charles Joseph Ansah, J.K. Blankson and Asare Mustapha Bediako. The Ghanaian authorities will reportedly provide them with the financial means to hire a lawyer and to appeal against their sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Charles Joseph Ansah, J.K. Blankson and Asare Mustapha Bediako were sentenced to death after they were found guilty of murdering a garage owner in Ghat. All three said they were innocent. According to the Ghanaian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the men were blamed for the murder because they were the only foreigners in the area at the time.

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

- urging that Charles Joseph Ansah, J.K. Blankson and Asare Mustapha Bediako be guaranteed a fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- acknowledging the right and duty of states to bring to justice those responsible for crimes but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment, attesting that there is no evidence that it is an effective deterrent to such crimes;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Libya is a state party.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mu'ammara al-Gaddafi
Leader of the Revolution
Office of the Leader of the Revolution
Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Telegram: Colonel al-Gaddafi, Tripoli, Libya
Telex: 70 0901 20162 ALKHASU LY
E-mail: jamahir@peg.apc.org
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir
Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation
Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Telegrams: Excellency al-Muntasir, Foreign Liaison Bureau, Tripoli, Libya
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency

Zanati Mohammad al-Zanati

Secretary of the General People's Congress

Secretariat of the General People's Congress

Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Telegrams: Excellency al-Zanati, General People's Congress, Tripoli, Libya

Salutation: Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of Libya accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 July 1998.