

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 96/95 (MDE 23/01/95, 20 April 1995) and follow-up (MDE 23/02/95, 27 April) - Alarming Increase in Number of Executions

SAUDI ARABIA Sali Id F. Yacqub

Muhammad Nur Muhammad

Umar 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmed)
Muhammad Abdullah Umar) new
Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir Shaykh) names
Umar Yusuf Tahir)

Muhammad Jamal `ALI,
`Abd al-Qadir Muhammad MUQTAR
Faqay Haji CUSMAN
Muhammad Abu `Abd al-Qadir ADE
Abd al-`Aziz Muhammad Isse - all Somali nationals

It has been reported that on 31 May 1995 in Jeddah, the first six Somali nationals named above were beheaded. All six had been accused of murder, theft and taking drugs. Amnesty International's deep dismay at the news of their execution is heightened by the fact that death sentences in Saudi Arabia are imposed after trials which do not comply with internationally agreed standards for prisoners facing the death penalty.

The organization remains gravely concerned for the five other Somalis named above, in particular `Abd al-`Aziz Muhammad Isse, who was found guilty of a crime which is said to have occurred before his arrival in Saudi Arabia from Somalia. Although obtainable from the airport of his arrival, this information was apparently not taken into account during his trial. Amnesty International is also concerned that defendants who are foreign nationals reportedly do not have access to interpreters during their trial.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that trials in death penalty cases in Saudi Arabia do not comply with the 1984 UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (paragraph 5), including the right of anyone suspected of or charged with a crime for which capital punishment may be imposed to "adequate legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings".

Amnesty International recognizes the right of states to bring criminals to justice but does not believe that the use of the death penalty is an effective means to combat crime. The organization opposes the death penalty unconditionally as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing dismay at the reported beheading of Sali Id Farah Yacqub, Muhammad Nur Muhammad, Umar 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmed, Muhammad Abdullah Umar, Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir Shaykh and Umar Yusuf Tahir on 31 May 1995;
- calling for clarification of reports that Muhammad Jamal `Ali, `Abd al-Qadir Muhammad Muqtar, Faqay Haji Cusman, Muhammad Abu `Abd al-Qadir Ade and `Abd

al-'Aziz Muhammad Isse are on death row and if this is the case urging that their death sentences be commuted;

- urging that international safeguards for defendants charged with capital offences are strictly observed during trials;
- reiterating grave concern about the alarming increase in the number of executions in Saudi Arabia and calling for a halt to such executions;
- explaining Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and that its campaign to abolish it worldwide is based on the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and pointing out that there is no evidence that the death penalty acts as an effective deterrent to crime.

APPEALS TO

His Royal Highness
 Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
 Minister of the Interior
 Ministry of the Interior
 PO Box 2833, Airport Road
 Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 404416
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Royal Highness
 Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 405000
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Excellency
 Dr 'Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
 Minister of Justice
 Ministry of Justice
 Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 405 9443
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 July 1995.