

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 23/06/95

16 August 1995

Further information on UA 96/95 (MDE 23/01/95, 20 April 1995) and follow-ups (MDE 23/02/95, 27 April; MDE 23/03/95, 1 June) - Alarming Increase in Number of Executions

SAUDI ARABIA 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

new names: Mehmet Nuri Koseo_lu, Seyfettin Erkut, Ahmet Mulayim, Fevzi Dana - Turkish na

Muhammed Akta_, Muhammet K_r_c_, Bekir Kaplan, Abdullah Be_ik, Halil Bozkurt, Cevat Kart, Nizamettin La_, Ismet Harci, Halil Karat, Ibrahim Akdalga, Abdussamet Arslan, Kemal Sab_r, Halil Temurci, Bekir K_dan, Ferit Bostanc_, Tahsin Danmas, Hilal Rende, Ziyad Akar, Ramazan Teke, Ali _ay, Hasan Bozkurt, Hikmet Karanfil, Vechi Büyüka_ik, Cafer Kele_, Ahmet Vemir, Nebil Cabir, Mustafa Bilge, Ra_it Kartal, Yeter Merakli, Mehmet Y_lmaz, Adem Özkurt, Osman Eren, Ayhan Kilic, Mustafa Kir, Abdülkadir Gülmüs, Ali Kaya, Mehmet Sinano_lu, Fazil Oklu, Asaf Milli, Yalcin Porat - all Turkish nationals

Executions in Saudi Arabia are continuing at an alarming rate under judicial procedures in which internationally agreed safeguards for prisoners facing the death penalty are completely ignored.

Since June 1995, Amnesty International has learned of 39 more executions, bringing the total number to 141 in the last seven months. Among those executed were 57 Saudi Arabian nationals, 29 Pakistani nationals and 21 Nigerians. The rest of the victims were Somalis, Filipinos, Chadians, Afghans, Yemenis, Egyptians, and Turkish, together with one Bangladeshi national, one Iraqi, one Syrian and one Sudanese national.

Those executed most recently include four Turkish nationals: Mehmet Nuri Koseo_lu and Seyfettin Erkut were put to death on 11 August and Ahmet Mulayim and Fevzi Dana on 14 August. It is reported that 20 of the 40 other Turkish nationals listed above are on death row, and the other 20 are currently on trial on charges which carry the death penalty.

The organization remains gravely concerned for the five 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 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. Defendants have no right to be formally represented by defence lawyers during their trials, and confessions, even when obtained under torture, are accepted by the court as evidence, and may be the sole evidence on which conviction is based. In addition defendants who are foreign nationals are reportedly not provided with adequate interpretation facilities during trial.

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/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:

- expressing dismay at the continuing executions in Saudi Arabia, including of four Turkish nationals on 11 and 14 August 1995, and calling for a halt to all executions;
- calling for clarification of reports that 20 Turkish nationals and 5 Somali nationals 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, including the 20 Turkish nationals reported to be currently on trial.

APPEALS TO:

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines
His Majesty
King Fahd bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Office of H.M. The King
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

His Royal Highness
Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Minister of the Interior
PO Box 2833, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 404416
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 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 5 October 1995.