

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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*This is a limited appeal: please send up to 10 appeals per section*

**UA 267/92**

**Death Penalty**

**17 August 1992**

**SYRIA:**

**Wajih Fares 'Azzi  
Muhammad Bin Ahmad al-Jarrah  
Kamal Bin 'Ali al-Msitif  
'Umar Bin 'Ali al-Nashar  
'Abd al-Fattah Bin 'Umar al-'Assani**

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Wajih Fares 'Azzi, aged 37, was hanged in public in al-Suwayda, southeast Syria, on 11 August 1992. He had been found guilty of murder and armed robbery. This brings the number of executions in Syria recorded by Amnesty International in 1992 to five.

All the executions were carried out by hanging in public. Amnesty International has no details about the legal proceedings followed in all these cases.

The organization has recently learned that the other four executions were carried out on 23 April in Bab al-Faraj square in Aleppo. Two of the victims, Muhammad Bin Ahmad al-Jarrah, aged 22, and Kamal Bin 'Ali al-Msitif, also aged 22, were found guilty of murder and rape in 1991. The other two, 'Umar Bin 'Ali al-Nashar, aged 21, and 'Abd al-Fattah Bin 'Umar al-'Assani, also aged 21, were found guilty of murder in January 1992.

While Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for the crimes for which the five had been convicted, it opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is the ultimate violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. The organization regrets that the five have been executed and calls on President Hafez al-Assad to commute any outstanding or future death sentences.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- expressing regret at the five executions carried out in Syria this year;
- requesting to be informed of the legal procedures followed in the case of Wajih Fares 'Azzi and the other four men named above, and whether they had access to the right of appeal;
- appealing for any outstanding or future death sentences to be immediately commuted;
- pointing out that although Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for the crimes for which they are convicted, it opposes the death penalty as cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency  
President Hafez al-Assad  
Presidential Palace  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
**Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria**

**Telexes:** 419160 munjed sy  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 September 1992.