

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/02/98

UA 66/98

Death Penalty

3 March 1998

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) Touran Ibrahim Abbas (f)

Touran Ibrahim Abbas, an Iranian national, has been sentenced to death in the United Arab Emirates. An appeal court in Dubai reportedly upheld the death sentence against her. Touran Ibrahim Abbas was convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to death in December 1997. The case may go to the Supreme Court and if upheld, the sentence will have to be ratified by the UAE president before it can be carried out.

In April 1995 the UAE expanded the scope of the death penalty to include drug-related offences. However, it is not known whether anyone has been executed for drug-related crimes. Between July and December 1997 six people are known to have been executed for murder.

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

- expressing concern that the death sentence against Touran Ibrahim Abbas has been upheld on appeal;
- recognizing the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death sentence in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- calling for the death sentence to be commuted.

APPEALS TO:

Crown Prince

His Highness

Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum

Ruler of Dubai

PO Box 899, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Telexes: 23245

Telegrams: Crown Prince, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Salutation: Your Highness

Minister of Interior

His Excellency

General Dr Mohammad Saeed al-Badi

Ministry of the Interior

PO Box 398, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Faxes: + 9712 415 688

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness

al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan

Ruler of Abu Dhabi

Manhal Palace

PO Box 280, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

and to diplomatic representatives of United Arab Emirates accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 April 1998.