

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 146/92 (MDE 28/02/92, 7 May 1992) - and follow-up MDE 28/05/93, 27 January 1993 - Death Penalty

ALGERIA:Aissa Messaoudi (also known as Tayeb El Afghani)

**Lazhar Amar
Mohamed Nguia
Bechir Rezig
Ahmed Osman
Kamel Rukhe
Antar Tera
Tayeb Sennouga
Khalid Kessous
Lamine Athmania
Jamal Bou Djelkha
Belgacem Tlili**

The Algerian Ministry of Justice announced on 12 February 1993 that Aissa Messaoudi, Bechir Rezig, Khalid Kessous and Jamal Bou Djelkha had been executed.

These men were among a group of 12 named above who were sentenced to death in May 1992 by the military court in Ouargla. All 12 were convicted of participating in an attack against a border post in Guemmar in November 1991, and their sentences were confirmed on 14 January 1993 by the Algerian Supreme Court.

Six people have been executed in Algeria so far this year. On 11 January 1993 the authorities announced that Nouredine Rahmoun and Ahmed Fodhil had been executed for participating in an attack on the Navy headquarters in Algiers in February 1992 (see UA 152/92, MDE 28/03/92 of 8 May 1992 and follow-up MDE 28/02/93 of 12 January 1993). Prior to these executions, none had been carried out since 1989. There are said to be over 100 people currently under sentence of death in Algeria.

The eight other prisoners named above, Lazhar Amar, Mohamed Nguia, Ahmed Osman, Kamel Rukhe, Antar Tera, Tayeb Sennouga, Lamine Athmania and Belgacem Tlili, have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment after a Presidential pardon.

Amnesty International recognises the right of governments to bring to justice and to punish those responsible for criminal offences such as those mentioned above but opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Amnesty International urges the President of the Algerian Republic, M. Ali Kafi, to immediately commute all outstanding death sentences.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Aissa Messaoudi, Bechir Rezig, Khalid Kessous and Jamal Bou Djelkha;

- expressing regret that Algeria has for the second time this year carried out executions after three years without any;

Page 2 of 2FU 146/92

- reiterating that Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;

- welcoming the decision of the President of the Republic to commute the death sentences of the other eight prisoners named above;

- urging that all other outstanding death sentences be immediately commuted and that steps be taken towards the abolition of the death penalty in Algeria.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Président M. Ali KEFI
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
El-Mouradia
Alger, Algérie

**Telegrams: President Kefi, Alger,
Algérie**

Faxes: + 213 2 609618

Telexes: 66044/66088

**Salutation: Excellence /
Your Excellency**

2) High Council of State Member:

M. Ali HAROUN
Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger
Algérie

Telexes: 66217/66221/66044/66088

**Salutation: Excellence /
Your Excellency**

3) Minister of the Interior:

M. Mohamed HARDI
Ministre de l'Interieur
Ministère de l'Interieur et des
Collectivités Locales
Alger, Algérie

Telexes: 66341

Faxes: + 213 2 618802

+ 213 2 645793

**Salutation: Excellence /
Your Excellency**

4) Minister of Justice:

M. Mohamed Téguia
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
8 rue de Khartoum
El-Biar, Alger, Algérie

Faxes: 213 2 605161

Telexes: 66241/66178/66243

**Salutation: Excellence /
Your Excellency**

PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS to the following Human Rights Organizations:

Observatoire national des droits de l'homme

Palais du Peuple

Avenue F. Roosevelt

Alger, Algérie

Faxes: + 213 2 60 10 42

Ligue algérienne des droits de l'homme

40-42 rue Larbi ben M'Hidi

Alger, Algérie

Ligue algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme

19 rue Abane Ramdane

Alger, Algérie

and to diplomatic representatives of ALGERIA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.