

PUBLIC

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Death Pen

YEMEN Mohammad Adam Omar

Mohammad Adam Omar, a Sudanese national, could be executed shortly if a final appeal against his death sentence is rejected by the Supreme Court.

Mohammad Adam Omar was sentenced to death on 19 November 2000 after being found guilty of kidnapping, raping and murdering two female students. His lawyers had sixty days in which to appeal against the sentence, and the Supreme Court is expected to hear the final appeal in the coming days. Other prisoners have been executed within hours of their appeals being rejected by the Supreme Court.

Mohammad Adam Omar was convicted during proceedings that raise serious concerns about the fairness of the trial. He initially "confessed" to the rape and murder of 16 young women, but retracted most of his confession after one of the alleged victims appeared in court during the trial. As a result the charges were reduced to two counts of murder, of which he was convicted.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has long-standing concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fail to meet international standards for fair trial.

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death sentence in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime and expressing sympathy for the victims and their relatives;
- urging the authorities to commute Mohammed Adam Omar's death sentence, if it is upheld on appeal;
- pointing out that the death penalty is brutalising to all concerned;
- reminding the authorities of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings, the right to appeal and the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

APPEALS TO:

General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Yemen

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Faxes: + 967 1 274 147

Salutation: Your Excellency

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 282 669

Salutation: Your Excellency

General Hussein Muhammad 'Arab, Minister of Interior

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 251 529 / 251 566

Salutation:Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 February 2001.