

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 21/01

Fear of i

YEMEN Shukri Al-Ali, aged 35

Shukri Al-Ali is facing imminent execution by firing squad. He had been scheduled to die on 25 March, but his execution was postponed at the last minute.

A large crowd had gathered to watch the execution, which had been due to take place at 10am in a public square in al-Mukala City, in the south east of Yemen. The execution had been widely publicised, on local radio and elsewhere. Shukri Al-Ali was convicted of murder.

The local press have carried two different explanations for the postponement. One, apparently given by officials, is that the prisoner fainted minutes before he was to be transported from the prison to the public square. The other explanation was that when a prison officer came into his cell to take him to the square, Shukri Al-Ali took him hostage.

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.

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

- expressing concern that Shukri Al-Ali may be facing imminent execution and urging that his death sentence be commuted to a more humane punishment;
- acknowledging the Yemeni government's right to bring to justice anyone found responsible for recognizably criminal offences, but expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life.

APPEALS TO:

General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
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
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Faxes: +967 1 282 669
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior
Hussain Muhammad 'Arab
Ministry of Interior
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen

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Faxes: +967 1 251 529 / 251 566
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.