

UA 65/02

Fear of Execution

6 March 2003

YEMEN

Nabil al-Mankali, (m)

The Supreme Court has reportedly upheld the death sentence against Spanish national, Nabil al-Mankali. Whilst the death penalty will have to be ratified by the president before the execution can be carried out, Amnesty International fears that Nabil al- Manakali's execution could be imminent.

Nabil al Mankali, was arrested on 18 August 1997, and was charged with planning acts of sabotage and assassination in connection with a bombing incident in Aden in July 1997. He was charged along with 27 others, some of whom, including Nabil al Mankali were reported to have been tortured to force them to confess. These confessions, allegedly extracted under torture, were on this occasion admitted as evidence by the court.

At least 20 others believed to connected to the bombing were sentenced to prison terms of up to 12 years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial.

While Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably 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 appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English/Arabic or your own language:

- seeking clarifications of reports that the death sentence imposed on Nabil al-Mankali has been upheld by the Supreme Court, if true;
- urging the President to commute the death sentence and prevent the execution of Nabil al-Mankali;
- acknowledging the right of the government to bring to justice anyone found responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities of international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence.

APPEALS TO:

President

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Faxes: + 967 127 4147 (please persist is you experience difficulties as this number is often busy)

Prime Minister

'Abd al-Qader Bajamal
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 274 662 or 282 766

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Rashid Muhammad al-'Alimi
Ministry of Interior
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 332 511

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of State for Human Rights

Dr. Wahiba G. Fare'e

Ministry for Human Rights

Sana'a

Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Minister of State for Human Rights, Sana'a, Yemen

Faxes: + 9671 419700

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

- Diplomatic representatives of Spain accredited to your country
- 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 17 April 2003*****