

URGENT ACTION

BAHRAIN EXECUTION DECISION POSTPONED

Two men sentenced to death in Bahrain, 'Ali 'Abdullah Hassan al-Sankis and 'Abdulaziz 'Abdulridha Ibrahim Hussain, will now wait over three months before hearing whether they will be subjected to capital punishment. If their death sentences are upheld and ratified, the two men will be executed.

The death sentences imposed on 'Ali 'Abdullah Hassan al-Sankis and 'Abdulaziz 'Abdulridha Ibrahim Hussain were upheld by the National Safety Court of Appeal, a military court, on 22 May. The same court commuted the death sentences of **Qassim Hassan Matar** and **Sa'eed 'Abduljalil Sa'eed** to life in prison, and upheld the life imprisonment sentence of the fifth defendant, **'Issa 'Abdullah Kadhemi 'Ali**. The five men were sentenced on 28 April. They were accused of killing two policemen during anti-government protests in March in Bahrain.

The final decision from Bahrain's Court of Cassation was scheduled for 13 June, but the Court has announced that that decision will now be made on 26 September 2011. If the sentences are upheld by the Court of Cassation, and then ratified by the King, the two men will be executed.

The two men were originally tried and sentenced by the National Safety Court of First Instance. Like the National Safety Court of Appeal, this is a military court comprising three judges - one military and two civilian. Amnesty International considers military courts inappropriate for trying civilians and that such trials directly infringe international standards of fair trial.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Arabic or English:

- Acknowledging the Bahraini government's responsibility to protect the public and bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes, but insisting that this should always be done in accordance with international law and Bahrain's international human rights obligations;
- Urging the King to immediately commute the death sentences imposed on the two men and order their re-trial before ordinary criminal courts.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BEFORE 27 JULY 2011:

King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
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Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali Al Khalifa
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Salutation: Your Excellency

Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain

Defence Force

Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa
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Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 122/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/023/2011/en> and <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/027/2011/en>

FU on UA: 122/11 Index: MDE 11/035/2011 Issue Date: 15 June 2011

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