

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 21/03/97

19 March 1997

**Further information (1) on EXTRA 01/97 (AFR 21/01/97, 6 January 1997) -  
Death penalty / Legal concern**

COMOROS                      Said Ali Mohamed  
                                    Youssouf Hamadi  
                                    Mohamed Youssouf

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The three men named above who were convicted of murder and sentenced to death on 31 December 1996, 3 and 4 January 1997 respectively are still detained at Moroni prison. They have been denied the right to appeal up until now and the appeal court is currently not functioning.

In September 1996, Youssouf Ali was denied his right to appeal and publicly executed after he was sentenced to death.

The UA Network should continue their action as requested in the original previous UA. We believe that more appeals could exert the necessary pressure on the authorities to allow the three men their right to appeal and possibly have their sentences commuted.

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

- expressing concern at the death sentences passed on Youssouf Hamadi, Said Ali Mohamed and Mohamed Youssouf;
- urging that the three men be allowed to exercise their right to appeal to an independent and impartial higher appeal court;
- reiterating Amnesty International's concern at the public execution of Youssouf Ali in September 1996 without his being able to exercise his right to appeal;
- explaining Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases and urging that the death sentences, if confirmed by an appeal court, be commuted to a more humane punishment.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President

Mohamed Taki Abdoukarim  
Président de la République  
BP 521, MORONI, Comoros

**Telegrams: President, Moroni, Comoros**

**Telexes: 233 PRESIREP KO**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

2. Minister of Justice

Harimiya Ahmed  
Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux et administration pénitentiaire  
Ministère de la Justice  
MORONI, Comoros

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Moroni, Comoros**

**Telexes: 219 MAERFIC KO**

**Salutation: Madame le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Prime Minister

Ahmed Abdou

Premier Ministre du gouvernement

BP 521, MORONI, Comoros

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Mouthar Ahmed Charif

Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération

Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération

MORONI, Comoros

and to diplomatic representatives of Comoros accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 April 1997.