

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/07/96

31 July 1996

Further information on EXTRA 127/95 (MDE 25/07/95, 30 October 1995) and follow-ups (MDE 25/02/96, 30 January 1996 and MDE 25/03/96, 9 February) - Flogging

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sarah Balabagan (f), Filipina national

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Sarah Balabagan was released from prison in the United Arab Emirates on 31 July 1996. She was serving a one-year prison sentence, after initially being sentenced to death for the murder of her employer. During her trial, she stated that she had stabbed him because he had raped her. In addition to the prison sentence, she received 100 lashes at the beginning of this year (see original EXTRA and earlier updates for details).

Sarah Balabagan was released prior to the completion of her sentence, which would have been in October 1996, reportedly due to her good behaviour in prison. Her release was ordered by the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayad bin Sultan al-Nahyan.

Sarah Balabagan has already left the United Arab Emirates and is on her way home to the Philippines.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Thank you to all who sent appeals.