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Death Penalty

8 May 1992

ALGERIA:           Noureddine Rahmoune  
                  Ahmed Fodhil  
                  Sid Ahmed Lahrani

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the death sentences passed on Noureddine Rahmoune, Ahmed Fodhil and Sid Ahmed Lahrani in Algeria on Wednesday 6 May 1992. It is appealing for the death sentences to be commuted should they be confirmed by the Supreme Court.

Noureddine Rahmoune, Ahmed Fodhil and Sid Ahmed Lahrani were sentenced to death by the military court in Blida. Sid Ahmed Lahrani was sentenced *in absentia*. They were convicted in connection with the attack on the Navy headquarters Amirauté in Algiers in February 1992. Noureddine Rahmoune and Ahmed Fodhil, both military personnel, were accused of having collaborated with the attackers. During the attack ten people died.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Other death sentences have recently been passed in Algeria. On 4 May 1992 13 men were sentenced to death, one *in absentia*, by the military court in Ouargla after having been convicted of participating in an attack against a border post in Guemmar, in the north-east of Algeria near the Tunisian border, in November 1991. During the attack three of the post's defenders were killed (see UA 146/92, MDE 28/02/92 of 7 May 1992 for further details).

According to Algerian law those sentenced by a military court can apply within eight days to the Supreme Court for cassation. The Court is competent to review alleged misapplication of the law. If the death sentences are upheld by the Supreme Court, executions may not be carried out until a plea for clemency has been presented to the President and refused.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in French or Arabic if possible:

- expressing your concern that the above three people have been sentenced to death;
- urging President Mohamed Boudiaf to commute the sentences should these be upheld by in the Supreme Court;
- urging that all death sentences be commuted in Algeria and that steps be taken to restrict and eventually abolish the death penalty.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

Président M. Mohamed BOUDIAF  
Président du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Palais Présidentiel  
El-Mouradia  
Alger  
Algérie  
**Telegrams: President Boudiaf, Alger, Algeria**  
**Telexes: 66044/66088**

**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

2) Minister of Defence:

M. Khaled NEZZAR  
Ministre de la Défense Nationale  
et Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Ministère de la Défense Nationale  
Avenue des Tagarins  
Alger  
Algérie  
**Telegrams: Ministre de Defense Nezzar, Alger, Algeria**

**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

3) High Council of State Member:

M. Ali HAROUN  
Membre du Haut Comité d'Etat  
Palais Présidentiel  
El-Mouradia  
Alger  
Algérie  
**Telegrams: M Ali Haroun, Haut Comite d'Etat, Alger, Algeria**  
**Telexes: 66044/66088**

**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Algeria in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 June 1992.