

PUBLIC

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Death penalty/fear of imminent execution

BAHRAIN

Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Mia (m), aged 37, Bangladeshi national

Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Mia, a Bangladeshi national, has been sentenced to death by the Court of Cassation in Bahrain. The execution is now pending ratification by the King, His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa. If the king ratifies the death sentence, Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Mia could be executed within weeks.

According to Bahraini media reports, Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Mia was found guilty of the murder in August 2006 of his employer, a Bahraini woman. It has been reported that he has confessed to the murder. Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub was sentenced to death in April 2007 by the High Criminal Court and has since appealed. His appeal was rejected by the Supreme Criminal Appeal Court in January 2008 and the Court of Cassation upheld this decision on 28 April 2008.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty is rarely used in Bahrain. In recent years several people have been sentenced to death. In December 2006 three Bangladeshi nationals were executed, the first people to be put to death in Bahrain since 1996. Executions carried out in Bahrain are usually by firing squad.

Amnesty International fears that the death penalty in Bahrain is disproportionately and overwhelmingly used against foreign nationals.

In January 2008 a proposed amendment to the 1976 Penal Code to repeal the death penalty for drug trafficking was defeated in the Shura Council. In December 2007, the Bahraini government voted against a UN resolution calling for moratorium on executions. The resolution was passed by a vote of 104 in favour to 54 against, with 29 abstentions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:

- calling for His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa not to ratify the death sentence of Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Mia;
- expressing sympathy with the victim's relatives and acknowledging that the government has the right and responsibility to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging the King to commute the sentences of all those facing possible execution in Bahrain.

APPEALS TO:

The King

His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa
King of Bahrain
Office of His Majesty the King
P. O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, Kingdom of Bahrain
Faxes: + 973 176 64 587

Salutation: Your Majesty

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Bahrain accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 June 2008.