

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 17/03/97

EXTRA 89/97

Death Penalty

19 June 1997

KUWAIT

Hassan Mohamed Helal

Hamdi Abdel Azim Khalil, both Egyptian nationals

Amnesty International has received reports that a court of appeal in Kuwait has confirmed the death sentence handed down to two Egyptian nationals convicted of pre-meditated murder. Hassan Mohamed Helal and Hamdi Abdel Azim Khalil were found guilty of the murder of their Kuwaiti employer, Bader Mohamed Al-Matiri. In criminal cases in Kuwait, death sentences are usually referred to the Court of Cassation before being sent to the Amir of Kuwait for ratification.

While recognizing the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes, Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Hassan Mohamed Helal and Hamdi Abdel Azim Khalil's death sentences have been upheld by the court of appeal;
- (in appeals to the Amir) urging the Amir of Kuwait not to ratify these and other outstanding death sentences;
- (in other appeals) calling on the authorities to urge the Amir not to ratify the sentences;
- acknowledging the serious nature of the crime in this case, but stating unconditional opposition to the death penalty, pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter violent crime more effectively than other punishments.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah
Amir of the State of Kuwait
Al-Diwan al-Amiri
Al-Safat
Kuwait City
Kuwait

Telegrams: Amir, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Faxes: + 965 539 6434

Salutation: Your Highness

His Excellency Shaikh Mohammad Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 11
Al-Safat 13001
Kuwait City

Faxes: + 965 243 3317

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Mohammad al-Sharar
Minister of Justice and Administrative Affairs

2

Ministry of Justice and Administrative Affairs
PO Box 6
Al-Safat 13001
Kuwait City
Fax: +965 246 6957
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Committee of the Defence of Human Rights
The National Assembly (Parliament)
Kuwait City
Kuwait
Faxes: + 965 245 0952

Newspaper

Al-Qabas
PO Box 21800, Kuwait City 13078
Kuwait
Faxes: + 965 483 4355

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

Faxes: + 965 246 9549

and to diplomatic representatives of KUWAIT accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 July 1997.