

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 17/04/93
Distr: UA/SC

12 May 1994

Further information on UA 202/93 (MDE 17/06/93, 22 June 1993) - Death Penalty

KUWAIT: Walid Jassem MAHDI, Iraqi

Walid Jassem Mahdi's death sentence has been commuted.

He was sentenced to death before the State Security Court on 19 June 1993, following his conviction on charges of "collaboration" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. He has been detained since then pending his appeal before the Court of Cassation. The appeals were postponed for nearly two years.

The Court of Cassation finally decided on 18 April 1994 not to uphold the death sentence passed on Walid Jassem Mahdi. It reversed his conviction on charges of "collaboration", but prison sentences of 10 and 5 years on other charges were upheld, and he now faces 15 years imprisonment.

Amnesty International has condemned State Security Court proceedings as unfair, on the grounds that it does not meet internationally accepted standards for fair trial and has called for a judicial review of the cases of all defendants convicted before it. Nineteen people sentenced to death before the State Security Court may still face execution if their sentences are upheld by the Court of Cassation and upheld by the Amir. Two others sentenced to death before the Criminal Court also remain in detention pending an appeal.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at present. Thank you to all who sent appeals.