

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/03/96

9 February 1996

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

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sarah Balabagan (f), Filipina national

It has been reported that the full sentence of 100 lashes against Sarah Balabagan has been carried out. She reportedly received 20 lashes on 30 January 1996 and 20 lashes on each of the following four days.

On 15 September 1995, Sarah Balabagan was found guilty of the premeditated murder of her employer. During her trial she stated that she had stabbed him to death because he had raped her. Her defence lawyer argued for her acquittal on the basis of self-defence, but the court found her guilty as charged and sentenced her to death.

On 30 October 1995, an appeal court in Al-Ain sentenced Sarah Balabagan to one year's imprisonment and 100 lashes. It quashed the death sentence verdict passed by the court of first instance on 15 September 1995, and ordered her to pay 150,000 dirhams (US\$41,000) blood money to relatives of the man she killed.

Amnesty International considers the judicial punishment of flogging to be contrary to Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states "no-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing regret that the flogging sentence against Sarah Balabagan has been carried out;
- calling on the authorities to commute any outstanding flogging sentences and stop the use of flogging as a judicial punishment.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness
al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Ruler of Abu Dhabi
Manhal Palace
PO Box 280, Abu Dhabi, The United Arab Emirates
Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM
Telegrams: President Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Highness

His Excellency
Dr Abdulla bin Omran Taryam
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 753
Abu Dhabi, The United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +9712-664944
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Excellency

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His Excellency
General Dr Mohd Saeed al-Badi
Minister of Interior
PO Box 398
Abu Dhabi
The United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +9712-461621
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of United Arab Emirates accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 March 1996.