

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/04/97

18 February 1997

Further information (3) on EXTRA 178/96 (MDE 25/12/96, 14 November 1996) and follow-ups: MDE 25/14/96, 25 November 1996, and MDE 25/01/97, 9 January 1997 Death Penalty

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

John Aquino, Filipino worker, aged 33

It now appears that the sentence of death against John Aquino was not quashed by the Federal Supreme Court as was reported previously. Recent reports received by Amnesty International suggest that on 1 February 1997 the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi decided to uphold the death sentence against John Aquino unless he receives clemency from the family of the victim, whom he was convicted of murdering, by 8 March 1997.

Lawyers acting for John Aquino are reported to be seeking to persuade relatives of the victim to pardon him or to be paid blood money. Failing this the case will be referred to the President of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, for ratification.

Amnesty International is concerned that John Aquino remains at risk of execution and is calling for commutation of his death sentence.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

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

- expressing concern that the death sentence against John Aquino has reportedly been upheld;
- urging for it to be commuted if the family of the victim do not show clemency;
- pointing out that there is no reliable evidence to show that the death penalty deters serious crimes.

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, United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +971 266 4799
Telegrams: Presiden al-Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Telex: 22220 PALACE EM
Salutation: Your Highness

COPIES TO:

His Excellency
Dr Abdulla bin Omran Taryam
Minister of Justice

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Ministry of Justice
PO Box 753
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +9712 664 944

His Excellency
General Dr Mohd Saeed al-Badi
Minister of Interior
PO Box 398
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +9712 461 621; 415 688

and to diplomatic representatives of UAE accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 March 1997.