

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 153/99

Death Penalty

2 November 1999

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Gamini Perera (m), Sri Lankan national, aged
29

Amnesty International is concerned that Gamini Perera could soon be executed. He has exhausted all his appeals and his sentence will now go to the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid al-Maktoum, for ratification.

Gamini Perera, a school bus driver, was sentenced to death by a Dubai court in October 1998 in connection with the murder of a young Emirati national earlier that year. His sentence was upheld by the Court of Appeal in February 1999 and by the Dubai Supreme Court on 16 October 1999.

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 sentence in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Two people, both Pakistani nationals, have been executed in the UAE since 1998. On 2 June 1999, Mohammed Arshad was executed for a 1993 murder. Atallah Khair Mohammad was executed for murder in June 1998, even though his execution had previously been postponed twice after intervention by the Pakistani embassy. Executions in the UAE are usually by firing squad.

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

- urging the authorities to commute Gamini Perera's death sentence;
- expressing sympathy with the victims of crime and their relatives but reminding the authorities that the death penalty is brutalising to all concerned;
- urging that all other death sentences in Dubai be commuted.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness
Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum
Crown Prince
Vice President & Prime Minister of UAE & Ruler of Dubai
PO Box 899, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Telegrams: Crown Prince, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Telexes: 23245
Faxes: + 971 4 538 438 / 535 883
Salutation: Your Highness

COPIES 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
Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM

His Excellency Muhammad Nakhira al-Dhariri
Minister of Justice & Islamic Affairs
P.O. Box No 2272 Abu Dhabi
E-mails: mojia@uae.gov.ae

and to diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates accredited to
your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 November 1999.