

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 31/026/2007

13 November 2007

Further Information on UA 231/07 (MDE 31/016/2007, 31 August 2007) and follow-up (MDE 31/024/2007, 31 October 2007) Death penalty/imminent execution

YEMEN Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari (m)

The execution of Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari, scheduled for 7 November, has been postponed, following appeals to President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh. It is unclear if a new date has been set for his execution. Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari remains at risk of execution.

He was sentenced to death in 2003, for murder. His appeals were rejected by the Court of Appeal in Ta'iz in August 2005 and the Supreme Court in 2007, and his death sentence was ratified by the President.

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial. Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, but is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and violation of the right to life.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- welcoming news that the execution of Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari has been stayed;
- urging the President to commute Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari's death sentence, and those of all others whose execution dates are imminent;
- acknowledging that the government has a right to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, in Adib Mohamed 'Ali al-Maqtari's and all other cases;
- urging the President to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
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Republic of Yemen

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Salutation: Your Excellency

Attorney General

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Minister of Interior
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COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 December 2007.