

PUBLIC

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Imminent execution

20 May 2005

YEMEN

Fatima Hussein al-Badi (f), aged 42

Fatima Hussein al-Badi could be executed at any time, if the President of Yemen, His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, decides to ratify the death sentence against her. Her brother Abdullah, who was co-accused of murdering her husband, was executed on 2 May.

Fatima and her brother were arrested on 13 July 2000 for murdering her husband, Hamoud Ali al-Jalal, and were sentenced to death on 17 February 2001 by the Preliminary Court. Both challenged the decision in the Court of Appeal which upheld the sentence against them on 12 August 2002.

They then appealed to the Supreme Court. The case was examined by the personal division of the Supreme Court which upheld the decision against Abdullah but decided on 10 September 2003 to reduce the sentence against Fatima to four years imprisonment.

The case was then sent to the President who ratified the sentence against her brother Abdullah but decided to resend her case to the Supreme Court following complaints from the victim's family that the case had not been dealt with properly. According to her lawyer, the General Assembly of the Supreme Court reviewed the case and decided to reinstate the death sentence against Fatima.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

While Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

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

- urging the President of Yemen to commute the death sentence against Fatima Hussein al-Badi, which would lead to her release as she has already served a longer sentence than the one passed by the Supreme Court;
- acknowledging that the government has a right to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities that they are bound by international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence;

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

Sanaa

Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 127 4147

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

His Excellency Dr Rashid Muhammad al-Alimi
Ministry of Interior
Sanaa
Republic of Yemen

Faxes: + 967 1 332 511

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights

Her Excellency Amat al Aeem al Suswah
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Salutation: Your Excellency

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 1 July 2005.