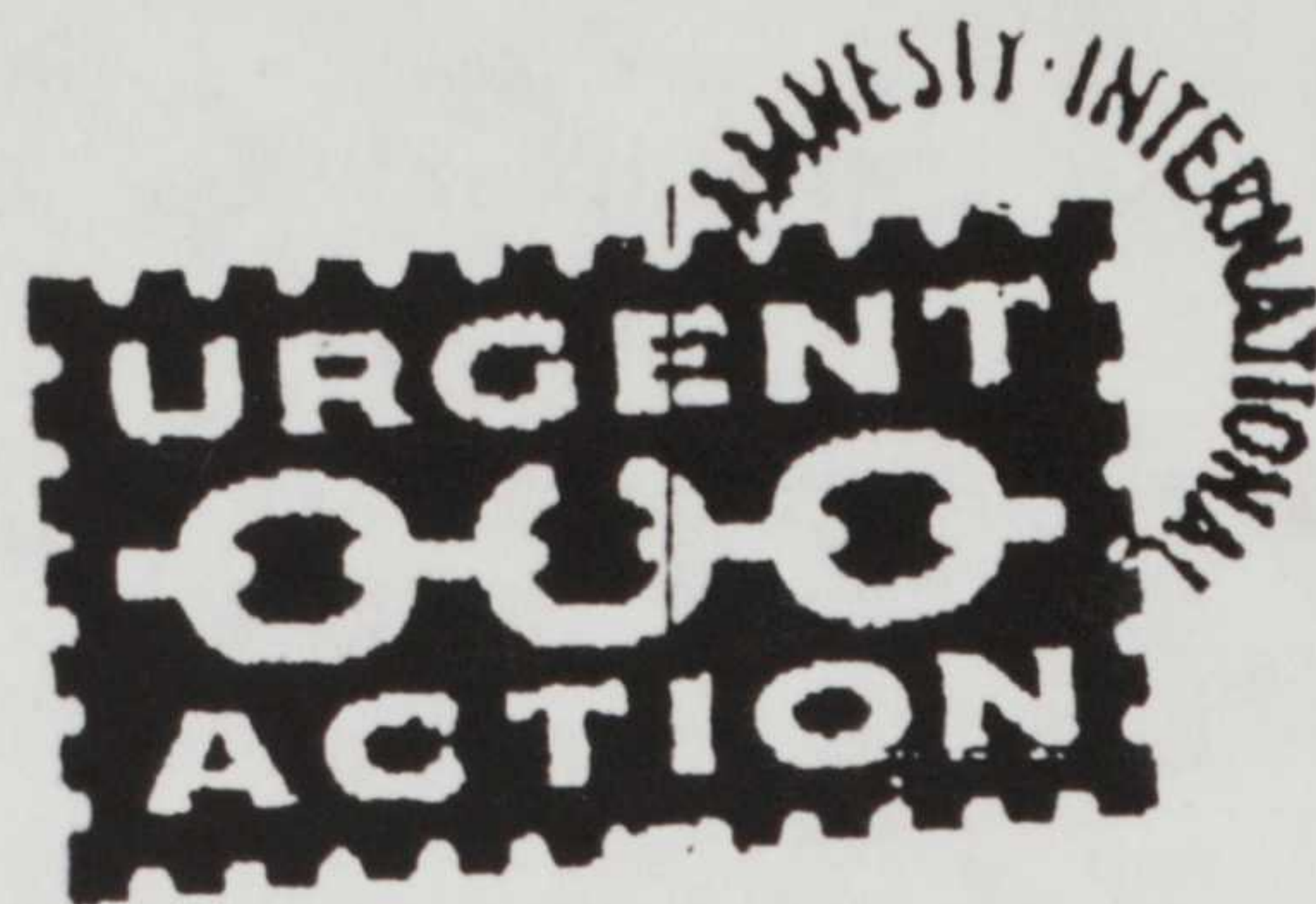




URGENT ACTION APPEAL

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UA 192/93
KUWAIT:

Death Penalty

15 June 1993

'Imad al-Din Mahmud Nimr, aged 29
Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad Daifallah, aged 20
Basil 'Ali Ahmad Daifallah, aged 22
Akram Shaker Ahmad, aged 26
Al-Mu'taz Billah Muhammad Saleh, aged 23
Muntasir Muhammad Saleh, aged 20
Hussain Rashed Hussain, aged 22
Mu'ayyed Yassin Hussain, aged 23
Iyad Muhammad 'Issa, aged 19
Bassem Hassan Muhammad, aged 23

On 12 June, Kuwait's State Security Court sentenced to death ten defendants charged with "collaboration" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. The sentences may be carried out if they are upheld by the Court of Cassation and subsequently ratified by the Amir of Kuwait.

The ten men, all Jordanians of Palestinian origin, were charged with "membership of the military wing of the hostile Arab Liberation Front (Jabhat al-Tahrir al-'Arabiyya); assisting militarily Iraq's Popular Army in Kuwait; illegal possession and use of weapons and ammunition; and receiving a monthly salary from Iraq during the occupation". Another Jordanian national charged with the same offences and tried with the other ten was sentenced to four years' imprisonment; the court reportedly took into account the fact that he was a minor at the time of the alleged offences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since April 1992, when the trials of defendants accused of "collaborating" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait opened before the State Security Court, 23 death sentences have been passed (two of them in absentia). Of these, one was reduced to life imprisonment by the Court of Cassation, while another sentence was upheld, ratified by the Amir and carried out on 5 May 1993. On 8 June, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs publicly affirmed that all death sentences ratified by the Amir will be carried out.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express & airmail letters:

- urging that the death sentences passed on the ten prisoners named above be commuted in the event that they are upheld by the Court of Cassation, and that no future death sentences are carried out;
- reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;

This Urgent Action appeal originated from Amnesty International's research headquarters at the International Secretariat in London, United Kingdom. Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used nor advocated violence. These are termed prisoners of conscience. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.