

I am writing this to express my concern for Tariq Aziz, Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister under Saddam Hussain, and Sadoun Shakir, the Interior Minister also under Hussain. Both of them were sentenced to death in October 2003 by the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal (SICT).

I urge you to commute the death sentences imposed on them, if they are confirmed by the appeal court.

I recognize the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for serious crimes but insist that the death penalty is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

I call on you to commute all death sentences and declare a moratorium on executions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,