

86

ME1-SYRIA-AMNESTY

Syrian President Asad issues general amnesty

Text of report by Syrian radio on 12th July

President Hafiz al-Asad today issued Legislative Decree No 3 of 1999, which grants a general amnesty to persons who committed crimes prior to 11th March 1999 in accordance with the provisions of the decree.

Following is the text of the decree:

Legislative Decree No 3: The president of the republic, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, decrees the following:

Article One: A general amnesty is granted for all persons who committed crimes before 11th March 1999, as follows:

(a) The entire sentence shall be revoked for the crime stipulated in Article 10 of the amended law No 49 of 1974.

(b) All sentences concerning misdemeanours shall be revoked.

(c) The entire sentence for those who committed the crime of desertion inside the country, as stipulated in Article 100 of the Military Penal Code, shall be revoked. Persons who remain at large shall not be covered by the provisions of this paragraph unless they hand themselves over within 60 days of the day this Legislative Decree is issued.

(d) The entire sentence shall be revoked for:

1. Violations stipulated in Articles 56, 57, 60 and 70 of the draft law, issued according to the amended Legislative Decree No 115 of 5th October 1953.

2. All violations punishable by other texts.

(e) Arrangements regarding reformation and care of minors who commit misdemeanours.

(f) The entire sentence shall be revoked for:

1. Those who committed any of the crimes stipulated in the amended Legislative Decree No 13 of 15th February 1974

2. The following crimes shall be exempted from the provisions of Paragraph 1 above:

Narcotics; crimes of smuggling, coupled with resistance to the competent authorities and the use of firearms.

(g) The entire sentence shall be revoked for those who committed crimes stipulated in the amended Legislative Decree No 24 of 31st August 1986, and articles 15, 23, 24 of the Economic Penal Code, issued in accordance with the amended Legislative Decree No 37 of 16th May 1966.

(h) One third of the sentence shall be revoked in other crimes stipulated in the Economic Penal Code.

(i) The entire sentence shall be revoked for those who committed crimes stipulated in Law No 8 of 20th June 1994 if they return the funds to depositors within one year from the date of issuance of this decree.

Article Two: Excepted from the provisions of this legislative decree are the following:

(a) Crimes included in Law No 10 of 1961.

(b) Offences stipulated in the following articles:

1. Articles 345-349, 351-356, 358-362, 365-367, 397-405, 422, 435, 441, 450-461, 476, 500, 504-505, 507-527, 628-632, 635-636, 641-644, 652-653 and 656-659 of the General Penal Code

2. Articles 112, 113, 120, 133, 135, 140 and 149 of the Military Penal Code enshrined in the amended Legislative Decree No 61 of 1950.

(c) The fines for violating the laws and regulations governing customs, foreign currency, cigarettes, tobacco, stamps, construction code and other laws whose fines take on the dimension of civilian compensation to the state or state agencies.

Article Three: The people at large in connection with the crimes covered by this legislative decree shall not benefit from this amnesty unless they surrender themselves to the competent authorities within three months of the issuance of this decree.

Article Four:

(a) This amnesty shall not cover the fines enshrined in verdicts or expected in connection with the crimes stipulated in paragraphs (f) and (g) of Article One of this legislative decree. Similarly, the amnesty shall not cover the confiscation measures taken and decisions made in this regard.

(b) The fees and fines enshrined in verdicts issued in connection with the crimes covered by this amnesty shall not be returned if they were paid to the state treasury.

Article Five: This amnesty shall not affect personal rights cases, which will remain the prerogative of the court handling public rights cases. The personal rights prosecutor may conduct his proceedings at this court within one year of the date on which this legislative decree takes effect. His right to pursue the case before the criminal court shall be revoked upon the expiry of this period. Still, he shall retain the right to pursue his case at a civilian court.

Article Six: This legislative decree shall be published in the Official Gazette. It shall take effect as from the date it is issued.

[Dated] Damascus, 29th Rabi al-Awwal 1420 AH, corresponding to 12th July 1999

[Signed]. President of the Republic Hafiz al-Asad

Source: Syrian Arab Republic Radio, Damascus, in Arabic 1515 gmt 12 Jul 99

BBC Mon ME1 MEPol nt
<<<end>>>