

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/003/2006

09 November 2006

UA 299/06

Fear of imminent execution

SAUDI ARABIA

Suliamon Olyfemi (m), Nigerian national, aged about 28
Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa (f), Indonesian national
Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef (m), Saudi Arabian national, aged 31
An unknown number of others under sentence of death

The three prisoners named above, and an unknown number of others, may be at risk of imminent execution. There has been an increase in the number of executions recently: at least 23 people have been executed in Saudi Arabia this year, and eight people, mostly foreign nationals, have been executed since 29 October.

Suliamon Olyfemi, a Nigerian national, was reportedly sentenced to death at a closed trial in May 2005 in connection with the murder of a policeman in Jeddah in 2002. He was one of 13 Nigerian men arrested in September 2002 in connection with the murder. The twelve others were sentenced to prison terms and corporal punishment (see UA 323/04, MDE 23/016/2004, 26 November 2004, and follow-ups). During his trial, Suliamon Olyfemi was reported to have had no access to legal representation or consular assistance, and did not have adequate translation.

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa, an Indonesian national and a mother of two, has been detained in Medina Prison since 1999. She was arrested in connection with the murder of her employer in September 1999. She reportedly suffers from a mental illness and is said to have "confessed" to the murder during police interrogation.

Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef, a Saudi Arabian national, has reportedly been sentenced to death on a vague charge relating to comments he made that were deemed to be contrary to *Sharia*. He was said not to have had access to a lawyer either during interrogation or the trial, nor was he informed of proceedings against him or appeal processes in his case. Doctors have concluded that he suffers from mental illness, including depression, and that he cannot be responsible for his actions. He was sentenced to death by a Lower Court in 1997. The sentence was said to be upheld on appeal. He was arrested in January 1994.

The execution of anyone that suffers from psychological problems flouts international standards of justice as reflected in resolution 2000/65 adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights in April 2000, which urges countries "not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute such a person".

Amnesty International recognises the rights and responsibilities of all governments to bring to justice those guilty of recognizably criminal offences. However, Amnesty International is fundamentally opposed to the death penalty as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings fall far short of international standards for fair trial, and take place behind closed doors.

Defendants are rarely allowed formal representation by a lawyer, and in many cases are not informed of the progress of legal proceedings against them. They may be convicted solely on the basis of confessions obtained under duress, torture or deception.

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

- expressing concern at the increase in the recent number of executions in Saudi Arabia;
- calling for the death sentences of all those on death row in Saudi Arabia to be commuted as a matter of urgency, including Suliamon Olyfemi, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa and Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef, with a view towards the abolition of the death penalty;
- urging that international standards for fair trials be observed.

APPEALS TO:

King Abdullah Bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty The King
Royal Court
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933
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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 403 1185 / 403 3614
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 403 0645
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 December 2006.