

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/005/2002

11 April 2002

Further information on EXTRA 18/01 (MDE 25/001/2001, 1 March 2001) and follow-up (MDE 25/002/2001, 16 March 2001) - Fear of torture/death penalty
New concern: Imminent Flogging

SAUDI ARABIA Gary Dixon (m), British national, aged 56

Gary Dixon also known as O'Nions, is at risk of imminent flogging. According to press reports of 2 April, he was sentenced to 800 lashes, eight years in jail and fined approximately £400,000 for producing and selling alcohol. Dixon was sentenced following a trial which took place behind closed doors and at which he had no legal representation.

Gary Dixon was extradited from the United Arab Emirates to Riyadh on 15 March 2001, in connection with car-bombings that took place in Saudi Arabia in late 2000. A number of people have been detained in connection with the bombings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Flogging is mandatory in Saudi Arabia for a number of offences, including those involving alcohol which is banned in the country. Flogging can also be used at the discretion of judges as an alternative or addition to other punishments. Sentences can range from dozens to thousands of lashes.

In 1997, the United Nations commission on human rights stated that "corporal punishment [such as flogging] can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, or even to torture". As a state party to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Saudi Arabia is in violation of this international standard by carrying out the punishment of flogging.

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

- expressing concern at the reports that Gary Dixon is soon to be flogged and calling for the sentence not to be carried out;
- stating that you consider the use of flogging as punishment to be cruel, inhuman and degrading, contrary to CAT and Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
- seeking assurances that he will be provided with access to family, legal and consular access in detention, as well as regular medical attention as and when it is necessary;

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

His Royal Highness, Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
Minister of the Interior, Ministry of the Interior
PO Box 2933, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Faxes: + 966 1 403 1185

Telexes: 401622 MORS SJ or 202811 INFORM SJ

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
Office of H.M. The King, Royal Court, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 201039 CABINET SJ
Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Royal Highness, Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Faxes: + 966 1 403 0159
Telexes: 405000 MFA SJ
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency, Dr. 'Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
University Street, Riyadh 11137, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Faxes: + 966 1 401 1741
Telexes: 404450 JUSTIC SJ
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.