

PUBLIC

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Death Penalty

SAUDI ARABIA

Faisal Fouzan al-Otaibi (m)

Faisal Fouzan al-Otaibi, who was sentenced to death for causing a fatal road accident, has now almost exhausted his appeals, and could therefore be executed within days.

He was sentenced to death for causing the deaths of three men, and injuring two others, in a crash apparently caused when he performed a high-speed stunt in his car in 2005. His case was reportedly referred to the Court of Cassation (a higher appeal court) on 24 June. If this Court upholds his sentence, his case will be referred to the Supreme Judicial Council, headed by the King for ratification and once ratified, he may be executed within days.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings often fall far short of international standards for fair trial. The rate of executions in Saudi Arabia has recently increased sharply, and the authorities have executed at least 100 people so far this year, although the true figure may be much higher. Death sentences are usually carried out by beheading.

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

- expressing concern that Faisal Fouzan al-Otaibi may face imminent execution if the Court of Cassation upholds his death sentence;
- urging the authorities to commute his death sentence, and those of all other prisoners on death row, as a matter of urgency, with a view to the abolition of the death penalty;
- expressing concern at the recent sharp increase in the number of executions in Saudi Arabia, despite the international trend towards abolition of the death penalty.

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
Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior) +966 1 403 1185
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
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 1185
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street
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 8 August 2007.