



SITI ZAINAB BINTI DUHRI RUPA

INDONESIAN NATIONAL, AGED 38

SITI RUPA, WHO REPORTEDLY SUFFERS FROM MENTAL ILLNESS, WAS DENIED LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT HER PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa, a mother of two, has been detained in Medina Prison in Saudi Arabia since 1999. A migrant domestic worker, she allegedly confessed to the murder of her employer during police interrogation. She was convicted and sentenced to death.

Siti Rupa, who reportedly suffers from mental illness, was denied legal assistance and representation throughout her pre-trial detention and is not known to have had a lawyer to represent her at her trial or to have received adequate interpretation from Arabic.

Amnesty International has been campaigning for the commutation of her death sentence. It is in breach of the UN

Commission on Human Rights resolution “not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person”. There is also real concern about the reliability of her alleged confession.

In November 2001 the Saudi Arabian government announced that Siti Rupa’s sentence could be overturned by her employer’s child; under Shari’a law, the heirs of murder victims have the right to pardon the offender either freely or in exchange for compensation. Siti Rupa is now forced to wait until the child reaches majority and decides her fate. The age of the child is unknown.

ACT NOW

Call on the Saudi Arabian Head of State to urgently:

- Commute Siti Rupa’s death sentence along with those of others currently on death row in Saudi Arabia as a step towards the abolition of the death penalty;
- Ensure that Siti Rupa is given full and immediate access to legal representation, consular assistance, adequate translation facilities and medical assistance if necessary.

WRITE TO:

King Abdullah Bin ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Al-Saud
Office of His Majesty The King
Royal Court
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

Tel/Fax: +966 1 488 2222
Salutation: Your Majesty

copies to:

Mr Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy
President, Human Rights Commission
PO Box 58889, Riyadh 11515

King Fahad Road, Building No.373
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 4612061
Salutation: Mr Al-Sudairy

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