



RIZANA NAFAEEK

SRI LANKAN NATIONAL, AGED 20

Rizana Nafeek, a migrant domestic worker, was arrested in May 2005 by the Saudi Arabian authorities on charges of murdering an infant in her care. She was convicted and sentenced to death in June 2007. She had no access to lawyers either during interrogation or at the trial, and it is believed that she confessed to the murder during police questioning, but has retracted her confession since.

Amnesty International is concerned that Rizana Nafeek may have been under 18 years old when the crime was committed. She apparently told the authorities that she was born in February 1988, but they have ignored this statement on the basis that her passport indicated that she was born in February 1982. According to information available to Amnesty International, she was not allowed to

present her birth certificate or other evidence of the age she says she is. Saudi Arabia is a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the execution of offenders for crimes committed when they were under 18.

A lawyer was instructed to act on her behalf during her appeal and, as of the end of August 2008, a court in Saudi Arabia was considering the appeal against her death sentence. Rizana Nafeek's lawyer is reported to have challenged the accuracy of the statements made by the interpreter who translated Rizana Nafeek's initial statements to the police from Tamil into Arabic. If the sentence is upheld, she could be at imminent risk of execution.

RIZANA NAFAEEK MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME

ACT NOW

Call on the Saudi Arabian Head of State to urgently:

- Commute Rizana Nafeek'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 the Saudi Arabian government complies with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the execution of juvenile offenders and which Saudi Arabia ratified in 1996.

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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AFFRONT TO JUSTICE

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE
BEING EXECUTED IN
SAUDI ARABIA?

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