

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/011/2003

13 November 2003

Further Information on UA 301/03 (MDE 23/009/2003, 24 October 2003) - Possible prisoner of conscience/Torture and ill-treatment/Incommunicado detention New concern – Medical concern

SAUDI ARABIA Um Sa'ud (f) aged 60, Saudi Arabian national
At least 82 others

New names: Ahmad bin Sa'd bin Abdel Aziz al-Amhuj (m), aged 37] Saudi Arabian nationals
Jam'an al-Ghamdi (m), aged 37]

Possible prisoners of conscience Ahmad bin Sa'd bin Abdel Aziz al-Amhuj and Jam'an al-Ghamdi are held in incommunicado detention at *al-Mabahith al-'Amma* (General Investigations) prison in the capital Riyadh where they are at risk of torture and ill-treatment. The two Saudi Arabian nationals may be held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs. Ahmad bin Sa'd bin Abdel Aziz al-Amhuj, is said to suffer from diabetes and may be in urgent need of medical attention.

Ahmad bin Sa'd bin Abdul Aziz Al Amhuj and Jam'an Al Ghamdi were arrested with over 250 other people during a protest demonstration in the *al-U'laya* district of Riyadh on 14 October. The protestors were calling for political reform and the release of political prisoners. The two men were reportedly arrested by members of *al-Mabahith al-'Amma* on charges of demonstrating and "carrying video cameras". They have reportedly been denied access to lawyers and family.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anti-government demonstrations are not allowed in Saudi Arabia. Critics of the state are often at risk of indefinite detention without charge or trial. They are also often ill-treated or tortured. Defendants do not have the right to formal representation by a lawyer and in many cases they and their families are not informed of the progress of legal proceedings against them. Due to the secrecy of the Saudi Arabian justice system, trials are often held behind closed doors. In the rare instances when individuals are charged and brought to trial, the proceedings invariably fail to meet the most elementary standards of fairness.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ahmad bin Sa'd bin Abdel Aziz al-Amhuj, Jam'an al-Ghamdi, Um Sa'ud and all those arrested on 14 October 2003 if they are held solely for demonstrating peacefully;
- asking the authorities to ensure that all detainees are protected from torture and ill-treatment and given regular access to family lawyers and medical attention if necessary;
- calling for anyone charged with a recognizably criminal offence to be given a prompt and fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin >Abdul >Aziz,
Minister of the Interior, Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road,
Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 403 1185 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)
Telex: 404416
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Telegram: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 403 0159 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)
Telex: 405000
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

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 401 1741
Telex: 405 980 MINJUS SJ
Salutation: Your Excellency

King and Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

His Majesty King Fahd bin >Abdul >Aziz Al-Saud,
Office of H.M. The King, Royal Court,
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

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 25 December 2003.