

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/51/00

EXTRA 59/00

Fea.

**SAUDI ARABIA Salfat Shah, Indian national  
Qader Muhildin Muhammad, Indian national  
Ja'afar Taher, Bangladeshi national  
Sarhab 'Abd al-Rahman, Bangladeshi national  
Zakir Hussein, Bangladeshi national**

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Two Indians and three Bangladeshis have been sentenced to flogging and imprisonment. Five other men convicted in the same case were sentenced to death, and executed on 16 June (see UA 165/00, MDE 23/50/00, 19 June 2000).

These men face an undisclosed number of lashes. Others in similar cases have been sentenced to hundreds and even thousands of lashes. These tend to be carried out at a rate of 50 lashes every two weeks. Even if the authorities have begun to carry out these men's sentences, they are unlikely to have finished yet.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Saudi Arabia uses flogging as punishment for a variety of offences. It is applied for sexual offences and can also be used discretionally by judges as a substitute or addition to other punishments. The number of lashes handed down by courts in each case is not clearly prescribed by law and can range from dozens to thousands. Under international human rights standards the use of these punishments is contrary to the prohibition of torture and other cruel punishments.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- asking the authorities to commute the sentence of flogging to a more humane punishment;
- stating that you consider their use of flogging as punishment to be cruel, inhuman and degrading, contrary to 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.

**APPEALS TO (please note that Saudi fax numbers can be very unreliable):**

King and Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud

Office of HM The King

Royal Court, Riyadh

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

**Salutation: Your Majesty**

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

**Fax: + 966 1 403 1185**

**Telegram: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

**Telexes: 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  
**Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Fax: + 966 1 403 0159**  
**Telexes: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  
**Fax: + 966 1 401 1741**  
**Telegram: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes:405 980 MINJUS SJ**  
**Salutation:Your Excellency**

**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 18 July 2000.