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Fear of d

SAUDI ARABIABangladeshi man, name unknown

A Bangladeshi man has reportedly been arrested for strangling three Saudi Arabian women during a series of robberies. Amnesty International is concerned that he may face the death penalty.

He stands accused of strangling three women, aged 18, 75 and 85, before making off with their jewellery and money. He was reportedly arrested in the village of Zahban, in the Red Sea province of Jeddah, after trying to strangle two other women.

It is very unusual for Amnesty International to receive information about such a case in Saudi Arabia before the sentence is carried out.

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. As well as violent crimes, these include some with no lethal consequences, such as sorcery and drug offences.

Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of all governments to bring to justice those guilty of recognizably criminal offences.

However, the organization is fundamentally opposed to the death penalty, as the ultimate violation of the right to life, as enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- seeking information about the exact charges brought against the Bangladeshi national reportedly arrested in Zahban and his whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely and that he will not face the death penalty;
- urging that he be allowed immediate and regular access to a lawyer, his family and an independent doctor;
- urging that he be given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- acknowledging the Saudi Arabian government's right to bring to justice anyone found responsible for recognizably criminal offences, but expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life.

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 H.M. 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

P.O. Box 2933

Airport Road, Riyadh 11134

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 403 1185

Telegram: Interior Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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

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: Justice Minister, 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 10 October 2000.