

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/14/99

22 October 1999

Further information on EXTRA 140/99 (AMR 51/162/99, 7 October 1999) and follow-up (MDE 23/12/99, 13 October 1999) - Fear of Death penalty/Unfair trial concern

SAUDI ARABIAHani el-Sayegh

Hani el-Sayegh is now known to be held in al-Hair prison, and is reported to be in good health. His family were allowed to visit him for the first time on 19 October.

Amnesty International welcomes this positive step but remains concerned that the Saudi Arabian authorities have not given any assurances that his trial will be conducted in accordance with international fair trial standards, including Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and article 14(3) (b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which stipulate that everyone should be allowed adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence and to communicate with counsel of his choice. As Hani el-Sayegh is to be tried for an offence which carries the death penalty, his trial should also be conducted in accordance with the 1984 United Nations Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of those facing the death penalty. As far as Amnesty International is aware, Hani el-Sayegh has not had access to a lawyer to represent him and is still at risk of being sentenced to death after an unfair trial.

Amnesty International has applied for visas for delegates to travel to Saudi Arabia and seek details about Hani el-Sayegh's trial and to observe any court hearings of the case, but has not yet received a response.

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

- welcoming the authorities' decision to allow Hani el-Sayegh's family to visit him, and urging them to allow him regular visits;
- expressing concern that the Saudi Arabian authorities have not provided any assurances that Hani el-Sayegh will be guaranteed a fair trial;
- expressing concern that Hani el-Sayegh has still not had access to legal counsel;
- demanding assurances that Hani el-Sayegh's right to a fair and open trial will be respected and the trial be open to international observers, including Amnesty International;
- seeking assurances that if convicted, Hani el-Sayegh will not be sentenced to death.

APPEALS TO:

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines
His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Office of H.M. The King, 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 2833, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Faxes:+ 966 1403 1185 (this is a telephone and fax, please ask to be connected to the fax if a voice answers)

Telexes:404416

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency, Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegrams:Justice Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Telexes:405 980 MINJUS SJ

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Information

His Excellency Dr. Fuad Abdul Salam Al-Farsi, Minister of Information, Ministry of Information, PO Box 843, Riyadh 11161, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telex: 401641 ARINFOR SJ

402640 MINMO SJ

Fax: + 966 1 402 3570/405 0674

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ambassador to the United Kingdom

His Excellency Dr Ghazi al-Gosaibi
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
30 Charles Street, London W1X 7PM

Fax: + 44 171 917 3255

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 19 November 1999.