

URGENT ACTION

RISK OF SURGE IN EXECUTIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA

A Nigerian man and an Indonesian woman sentenced to death are at risk of execution in Saudi Arabia, as the authorities resume executions following a temporary self-imposed moratorium for Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. Two people have been executed in the last eight days.

So far this year, 19 people have been executed in Saudi Arabia. This is considerably less than in previous years. However Amnesty International is concerned that now there could be a surge in executions, as since Ramadan ended, two Saudi Arabian nationals have been killed in the past eight days – one on 20 September and one on 27 September. Amnesty International fears for over a hundred prisoners who are sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia.

Two foreign nationals whose cases Amnesty International has been campaigning on may be at particular risk of imminent execution because they have exhausted all appeals against death sentences that were imposed several years ago.

Suliamon Olyfemi, a Nigerian national, was sentenced to death at a closed trial in May 2005 in connection with the murder of a policeman in Jeddah in 2002. During his trial, Suliamon Olyfemi was reported to have had no access to legal representation or consular assistance, and did not have adequate translation (see UA 323/04, MDE 23/016/2004, 26 November 2004, and follow-ups).

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa, an Indonesian national and a mother of two, has been detained in Medina Prison since 1999. She was arrested in connection with the murder of her employer in September 1999. She reportedly suffers from a mental illness and is said to have “confessed” to the murder during police interrogation.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Arabic or English or your own language:

- Welcoming the apparent decrease in executions in 2010 compared to previous years;
- Expressing concern at the resumption of executions in Saudi Arabia following Ramadan;
- Saying that Amnesty International considers the death penalty to be the ultimate cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment;
- Calling for the death sentences of all those on death row in Saudi Arabia – including Suliamon Olyfemi, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa and many others – to be commuted as a matter of urgency, with a view towards the abolition of the death penalty;
- Urging that international standards for fair trials be observed.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 NOVEMBER TO:

King and Prime Minister

His Majesty King ‘Abdullah Bin ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Al-Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior)
+966 1 403 1185 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Your Majesty

Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Al-Saud, Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road
Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 1185 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

And copies to:

President, Human Rights Commission
Bandar Mohammed ‘Abdullah al-Aiban
Human Rights Commission
P.O. Box 58889, King Fahad Road,
Building No. 373, Riyadh 11515
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 461 2061
Email: hrc@haq-ksa.org
Salutation: Dear Mr al-Aiban

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 158 people, including 76 foreign nationals, were executed by the Saudi Arabian authorities in 2007, and at least 102 people, including almost 40 foreign nationals, were executed in 2008. In 2009, at least 69 people are known to have been executed, including 19 foreign nationals. Since the beginning of 2010, at least 19 people have been executed.

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings fall far short of international standards for fair trial. Defendants are rarely allowed formal representation by a lawyer, and in many cases are not informed of the progress of legal proceedings against them. They may be convicted solely on the basis of confessions obtained under duress or deception.

Saudi Arabia is a state party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which prohibits the use of evidence extracted under torture or other ill-treatment. Article 15 states: "Each State Party shall ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made."

In a report published in 2008 on the use of the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, Amnesty International highlighted the extensive use of the death penalty as well as the disproportionately high number of executions of foreign nationals from developing countries. For further information please see *Saudi Arabia: Affront to Justice: Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia* (Index: MDE 23/027/2008), 14 October 2008: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/saudi-arabia-executions-target-foreign-nationals-20081014>

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