

URGENT ACTION

FILIPINO WORKER RELEASED FROM SAUDI PRISON

Filipino domestic worker Ruth Cosrojas was released from a Saudi Arabian prison on 29 September and deported back to the Philippines the following day.

Ruth Cosrojas Gonzales was taken from al-Malaz prison in the capital, Riyadh, to the city's airport late on 29 September. She boarded a plane to the Philippines in the morning of 30 September.

In October 2013, the 31-year-old mother of three was convicted of organizing the sale of sex (*quwada*) and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and 300 lashes after an unfair trial. The court sessions took place in secret and she had no access to proper legal representation.

According to a source familiar with the case, the judge relied on a police report that claimed she had been caught in the act. However, Ruth Cosrojas denies all charges against her and claims that in August 2013 she and three female friends had been handed-in to the *Mutawa'een* (religious police) and accused of engaging in sex work by a Filipino man who had offered the women cleaning jobs.

By the time of her release, Ruth Cosrojas had served 13 months in prison and, according to a friend, had received at least 150 of the 300 lashes to which she had been sentenced.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 135/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/011/2014/en

Name: Ruth Cosrojas Gonzales

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 135/14 Index: MDE 23/027/2014 Issue Date: 21 October 2014

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