

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/015/2005

28 November 2005

Further Information on UA 193/05 (MDE 23/009/2005, 22 July 2005) Imminent Execution

SAUDI ARABIA

**D.D. Ranjith de Silva (m), Sri Lankan national
E.J. Victor Corea (m), Sri Lankan national
Sanath Pushpakumara (m), Sri Lankan national**

Amnesty International has learned that King Abdullah bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud is currently considering the death sentences of Sri Lankan nationals D.D. Ranjith de Silva, E.J. Victor Corea and Sanath Pushpakumara. The King has the power to grant clemency or ratify the death sentences of the three men. If the sentences are ratified, the men could be executed at any time.

The three were reportedly arrested in March 2004, in the capital, Riyadh and sentenced to death in October 2004, in connection with a series of armed robberies. Their sentences were reportedly upheld in March 2005. They are held in al-Ha'ir prison, in Riyadh.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings fall far short of international standards for fair trial, and take place behind closed doors.

Defendants do not have the right to 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, torture or deception.

At least 76 people are known to have been executed in Saudi Arabia so far this year. Two thirds have been foreign nationals. The true figure may be much higher.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- acknowledging that the government has a right to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- reminding the authorities that Saudi Arabia is bound by international standards for fair trial in capital cases, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence;
- urging the King to commute the death sentences of D.D. Ranjith de Silva, E.J. Victor Corea and Sanath Pushpakumara.

APPEALS TO:

King and Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

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

Office of His Majesty The King

Royal Court, Riyadh

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Salutation: Your Majesty

COPIES TO:

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

Fax: + 966 1 403 0645 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)

and to diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 January 2005.