

# URGENT ACTION

## ALI AL-NIMR AT IMMINENT RISK OF EXECUTION

**Ali al-Nimr was moved to solitary confinement in al-Ha'ir prison in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 5 October, and is now held incommunicado. He has exhausted his appeals, raising fears that he may be executed soon.**

Ali al-Nimr was moved on 5 October, together with two other alleged juvenile offenders, Dawood al-Marhoon and Abdullah al-Zaher, to al-Ha'ir prison in Riyadh, where they have since been held incommunicado and in solitary confinement. All three were sentenced to death in 2014 by the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) and their death sentences were upheld by the appeal court and the Supreme Court earlier this year without their knowledge.

Ali al-Nimr was sentenced to death on 27 May 2014 by the SCC in Jeddah, for offences that included "taking part in demonstrations against the government", "attacking the security forces", "possessing a machine-gun" and "carrying out an armed robbery". The court seems to have based its decision on "confessions" which Ali al-Nimr has said were extracted under torture and other ill-treatment and has refused to look into this allegation.

Ali al-Nimr had been arrested on 14 February 2012, when he was 17 years old, and taken to the General Directorate of Investigations (GDI) prison in Dammam, in the Eastern Province. He was then taken to a centre for juvenile rehabilitation, Dar al-Mulahaza, where he was held until he reached the age of 18, and then returned to the GDI prison in Dammam. He was not allowed access to his lawyer while in detention, and as a result was unable to present an appeal following his conviction.

Ali al-Nimr is the nephew of a prominent Shi'a cleric, Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, from al-Awamiyya in Qatif, eastern Saudi Arabia, who was sentenced to death by the SCC on 15 October 2014.

### Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to quash Ali Mohammed Baqir al-Nimr's conviction and death sentence, and ensure that he is retried in line with international law and standards, without recourse to the death penalty;
- Calling on them to order an independent investigation into his allegation of torture and other ill-treatment;
- Reminding them that Saudi Arabia is a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which strictly prohibits the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by anyone below the age of 18;
- Urging them to establish immediately an official moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 NOVEMBER 2015 TO:

#### King and Prime Minister

His Majesty Salman 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 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)  
Twitter: @KingSalman  
**Salutation: Your Majesty**

#### Minister of Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933,  
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### **And copies to:**

President, Human Rights Commission  
Bandar Mohammed 'Abdullah al-Aiban  
Human Rights Commission  
PO Box 58889, Riyadh 11515  
King Fahd Road  
Building No. 3, Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 11 418 5101  
Email: info@hrc.gov.sa

### Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 143/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/2452/2015/en/>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## ALI AL-NIMR AT IMMINENT RISK OF EXECUTION

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia is one of the most prolific executioners in the world, putting more than 2,200 people to death between 1985 and 2015. So far this year it has executed at least 136 people, almost half of them for offences that did not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” for which the death penalty can be imposed under international law.

Saudi Arabia also sentences people to death, and executes them, for crimes committed when they were below 18 years of age, in violation of the country’s obligations under customary international law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The authorities repeatedly fail to abide by international standards for fair trial and UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. Trials in death penalty cases are often held in secret and their proceedings are unfair and frequently summary, with no legal assistance or representation through the various stages of detention and trial. Defendants may be convicted solely on the basis of “confessions” obtained under torture or other ill-treatment, duress or deception.

Tensions between the Shi’a Muslim community and the Saudi Arabian authorities have increased since 2011 when, inspired in part by protests that swept the Middle East and North Africa region, Saudi Arabians in the Kingdom’s predominantly Shi’a Eastern Province stepped up public calls for reforms. Since 2011, demonstrations have also been organized to protest against the arrest, imprisonment and harassment of members of the Shi’a community for holding collective prayer meetings, celebrating Shi’a Muslim religious festivals and breaching restrictions on building Shi’a mosques.

The Saudi Arabian authorities have responded with repressive measures against those suspected of taking part in or supporting protests or expressing views critical of the state. Protesters have been held without charge and incommunicado for days or weeks at a time, and some are reported to have been tortured and otherwise ill-treated. Nearly 20 people connected with protests in the Eastern Province have been killed by the security forces since 2011 and hundreds have been imprisoned. Of those whose cases have moved to the courts, many have been charged solely with taking part in demonstrations.

Among those sentenced to death in relation to the protests and in addition to Ali al-Nimr are two alleged juvenile offenders, Dawood al-Marhoon and Abdullah al-Zaher (see UA 229/16, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/2671/2015/en/>), and the prominent Shi’a cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, who is Ali al-Nimr’s uncle.

Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr was sentenced to death by the SCC on 15 October 2014 (see UA 271/14, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/028/2014/en/>) for a list of offences that included “disobeying and breaking allegiance to the ruler”, “calling to overthrow the regime”, “calling for demonstrations”, “inciting sectarian strife”, “questioning the integrity of the judiciary” and “interfering in a neighbouring state’s affairs” (meaning Bahrain). His trial that began at the SCC on 25 March 2013 was deeply flawed. Key eyewitnesses were permitted by the court not to testify or be cross-examined by the defence, and his lawyer was not informed of the dates of a number of court hearings.

Name: Ali Mohammed Baqir al-Nimr

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 143/14 Index: MDE 23/2674/2015 Issue Date: 16 October 2015