

Further Information on UA 299/06 (MDE 23/003/2006, 09 November 2006) and follow-up (MDE 23/005/2006, 23 November 2006) - Fear of Imminent Execution and new concerns: Prison conditions/Medical Concern

SAUDI ARABIA Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef (m), Saudi Arabian national, aged 31
Suliamon Olyfemi (m), Nigerian national, aged about 28
Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa (f), Indonesian national
Ahmed al-Bahrani (m), Saudi Arabian national
An unknown number of others under sentence of death

Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef has reportedly attempted suicide twice in eight days, by swallowing nails. It is not clear where the nails came from. He was hospitalised on both occasions, but then returned to solitary confinement. He reportedly suffers from depression and other mental illness.

Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef is held at a prison in Najran, in the Western Province of Saudi Arabia. He began a hunger strike on 14 January to protest against being sentenced to death and having spent 13 years in prison. On 18 January he was taken to King Khaled hospital in Najran after an attempt to commit suicide by swallowing nails, which caused his abdomen to become swollen. He was discharged from hospital on 21 January, after an operation to remove the nails, only to be returned to solitary confinement. He is said to have made a second suicide attempt on 25 January, again by swallowing nails. He is now in King Khaled hospital, under police guard, and is allowed contact with medical staff only.

He was reportedly arrested in 1994. He was sentenced to death in 1997 after proceedings that failed to meet minimum international standards for fair trial, and on a vague charge relating to comments he had made that were deemed to be contrary to Islam. He did not ~~to~~ have access to a lawyer during either interrogation or the trial. The death sentence was upheld by the Court of Cassation in 2001.

His family reportedly sought clemency from the King. but it is not clear whether the King has accepted their plea.

All four prisoners named above remain at imminent risk of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The execution of anyone suffering from psychological problems flouts international standards of justice, as reflected in resolution 2000/65 adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights in April 2000 which urges countries "'not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute such a person'".

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

- expressing concern at reports that Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef has been able to attempt suicide while in custody, and urging the authorities to ensure that he has full and regular access to any medical treatment he may need;
- calling on the authorities to commute Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef's death sentence;
- calling on the authorities to commute the death sentences of all those on death row as a matter of urgency, including those of Suliamon Olyfemi, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa and Ahmed al-Bahrani, with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty altogether;
- pointing out that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- urging the authorities to ensure that their courts uphold international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

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
Salutation: Your Majesty

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933
Airport Road
Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 403 1185 / 403 3614
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

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
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

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 9 March 2007.*****