

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death in Custody

13 July 1992

Saudi Arabia:

Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr

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According to information received by Amnesty International, Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr, a 27-year-old Saudi Arabian bank employee, died at the beginning of April 1992 while in police custody, reportedly as a result of torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr was employed at the Saudi British Bank in al-Rawda, Riyadh. Following a robbery of the bank's cash machine at the end of the holy month of Ramadan (4 March to 2 April 1992), he was arrested, together with a Sudanese suspect, and taken by police officers to a detention centre in Riyadh.

A few days after their arrest Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr died in custody, reportedly as a result of torture, his body allegedly bearing marks of severe beatings. On 12 June Amnesty International wrote to His Royal Highness, Prince Naif bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Minister of the Interior, asking to receive the findings of any investigation into his treatment after arrest and the cause of his death. It also urged that if an investigation had not taken place, such proceedings be carried out without delay. To date the organization has not received a reply.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

According to Amnesty International's information, political suspects in Saudi Arabia are routinely tortured or ill-treated during the early stages of detention while undergoing interrogation. The most common methods used are *falaqa* (beating on the soles of the feet), beating all over the body, *tas-hir* (sleep deprivation), *ta'liq* (hanging by the wrists from the ceiling or a high window) and electric shocks.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that the death in custody at the end of Ramadan of Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr is reported to have been due to torture;
- requesting the findings of any investigation into the cause of death of Muhammad bin Fahd al-Mutayr and if no such investigation has taken place, urging that this be carried out without delay and that the findings be made public.
- urging that if the allegations of torture are found to be true that those responsible be brought to justice.
- also urging that, if the allegations of torture are found to be true, the government adopt all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such torture and death in custody.

#### APPEALS TO:

1) His Royal Highness  
Prince Naif bin 'Abd al-'Aziz  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Telegrams:** Minister Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
**Telexes:** 404416 DMMOI SJ (Riyadh)  
603788 AMN SJ (Jeddah)  
**Faxes:** 966-1-4050130

**Salutation:** Your Royal Highness

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2) His Royal Highness  
Prince Salman bin 'Abd al-'Aziz  
Governor of Riyadh Province  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telexes:** 404 600 EMERA SJ

**Salutation:** Your Royal Highness

3) His Excellency  
Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim Jubair  
Minister of Justice  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams:** Justice Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
**Telexes:** 404450 Justic SJ  
403970 MINJUS SJ  
403980 MINJUS SJ

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending of appeals after 24th August 1992.