

EXTERNAL

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Flogging

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SAUDI ARABIA Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid, Egyptian national

Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid, an Egyptian worker in Saudi Arabia in his 30s, is reported to have been sentenced to 4,000 lashes. According to former prisoners held with him at al-Buraida Prison in al-Qaseem Province, Mohammed has so far been flogged 3,400 times at the rate of 50 lashes every two weeks. The remaining 600 lashes are expected to be carried out over the next six months.

The former prisoners state that, every fortnight, Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid is taken from the prison, with his legs shackled, to the marketplace where he is flogged in full view of shoppers and passers-by. Each time he receives 50 lashes carried out by a policeman using a bamboo cane of about a metre in length and about half a centimetre in diameter. Each flogging session is said to leave Mohammed with bruised or bleeding buttocks and unable to sleep or sit for three or four days afterwards.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mohammed was convicted on charges of theft together with a Saudi Arabian national. They have both been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment each, in addition to 4,000 lashes for Mohammed. They were not allowed any legal representation. Mohammed is said to have been denied any visits since his arrest, possibly in 1991.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- appealing for the remaining sentence of 600 lashes to be commuted;
- expressing concern about the penalty of lashes as a judicial punishment which Amnesty International considers to be a form of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, contrary to Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### APPEALS TO:

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines  
His Majesty  
King Fahd bin 'Abdul-'Aziz  
Office of H.M. The King  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Salutation: Your Majesty**

His Royal Highness  
Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
PO Box 2833  
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 404416**  
**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

His Royal Highness  
Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 405000**  
**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

His Excellency  
Dr. 'Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 405 9443**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**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 16 September 1995.