

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 23/04/97

23 May 1997

Further information on EXTRA 43/97 (MDE 23/03/97, 25 March 1997) - Fear of increase in executions

SAUDI ARABIA Sarah Dematera (f), Filipino national
and others on death row

In the past 26 days, 21 executions have been carried out in Saudi Arabia, bringing to 41 the total number of executions in the country so far in 1997. This appalling execution rate raises grave fears that more prisoners on death row may be at imminent risk of having their death sentences carried out.

Among prisoners reported to be on death row is Sarah Dematera, a Filipino national convicted of murdering her employer in 1992. Amnesty International has sought clarification of the status of her sentence but has not received any response from the Saudi Arabian authorities.

All those executed so far in 1997 had been convicted of criminal offences, such as murder, drug smuggling, armed robbery or sexual offences. No information was made public about their trials and conviction as it is a practice in Saudi Arabia only to announce executions once they have been carried out.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express/ airmail letters in Arabic, English or in your own language:

- voicing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and expressing grave concern that executions are continuing to be carried out at an alarming rate in Saudi Arabia,
- calling for a halt to further executions, and calling on the authorities to commute all outstanding death sentences to a more humane punishment;
- reiterating requests for clarification of the current status of Sarah Dematera, and urging commutation of her sentence if she is still facing execution;
- urging that international safeguards for defendants charged with capital offences are strictly observed during trials of such defendants.

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

Minister of Interior
His Royal Highness
Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Royal Highness

Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz

Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Telexes: 405000

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency

Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh

Ministry of Justice

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Telexes: 405 980 MINJUS SJ

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 27 June 1997.