

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/05/98

UA 184/98 Fear of torture and ill-treatment/
Possible prisoners of conscience

26 June 1998

SAUDI ARABIA Ariel Ordon, Filipino national
Angelito Sison, Filipino national
Juanito Manalili, Filipino national
Ruban Aguire, Filipino national
Wim Den Hartog, Dutch national
and others

Up to a dozen Christian people working in Saudi Arabia were arrested between 6 and 17 June 1998, possibly only because of their religious beliefs. Most of them are said to be held incommunicado and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The detainees were arrested by al-Mutawa'een, the religious police, reportedly after a copy of the Bible was found outside a house in Riyadh. Most of them have apparently been denied any contact with the outside world and their current whereabouts are unknown.

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

- calling for immediate clarification of the whereabouts of the Christian workers detained between 6 and 17 June 1998 (name some of them) and seeking assurances that they are treated humanely, protected from torture, and given prompt and regular access to relatives, lawyers and medical attention if necessary;
- expressing concern that the detainees may be prisoners of conscience and, if they are not, seeking information about the reasons for their arrest, any charges brought against them and details of any trial proceedings.

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
PO Box 2833, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 404416
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 7 August 1998.