

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 23/07/95

14 September 1995

Further information on UA 190/95 (MDE 23/04/95, 1 August 1995) - Flogging

SAUDI ARABIA Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid, Egyptian national

new names: Hamid Bin Nazal Bin Mahbub al-'Anzi (1,500 lashes and 15 years' imprisonment)

Riad Bin Kuleyb Bin Salim al-Mutay (1,500 lashes; 15 years)

Morris Bin Sayf al-Sahli (1,200 lashes; 12 years)

'Abd al-'Aziz Bin Zayd al-Sahli (1,000 lashes; 10 years)

'Abdullah Bin Muhammad al-'Anzi (1,000 lashes; 10 years)

'Aday Bin Tayib al-'Anzi (1,000 lashes; 10 years)

Hamdan Bin Salih Bin Hadi al-Mukhlis (500 lashes; 5 years)

Nawaf Bin Farraj al-Harbi (500 lashes; 5 years)

Nadir Bin Fahid Bin Musfir al-Dawsari (400 lashes; 4 years)

Salih Bin Muslih al-Shahri (200 lashes; 2 years)

Mohammad Bin Abdullah al-Huta (200 lashes; 2 years)

Eleven people have been sentenced to prison terms of between two and 15 years with additional punishment of 200 to 1,500 lashes each, to be carried out at 50 lashes a time. The first 50 lashes for each prisoner may have already been carried out. The 11 were found guilty of being members of a gang that kidnapped and raped boys, stole cars and robbed homes. Dhuweihi bin Mohammad bin Nasser al-Sahli, the man found guilty of being the gang's ringleader was reportedly executed in Riyadh on 8 September 1995. Amnesty International continues to be alarmed by the number of executions currently being carried out by the Saudi Arabian authorities (see UA 96/95 (MDE 23/01/95, 20 April) and follow-ups).

Amnesty International has no new information on the case of Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid, convicted of theft and reportedly sentenced to 4,000 lashes to be carried out at the rate of 50 lashes every two weeks. It is believed that he still has 400 lashes or so remaining of his sentence, to be carried out over the next four to five months.

According to former prisoners held with him at al-Buraida Prison in al-Qaseem Province, 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.

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

- appealing for the remaining sentence of flogging against Mohammed 'Ali al-Sayyid, and for the sentences against the 11 others (naming some) to be commuted;
- recognizing the right of the authorities to bring to justice those who have committed crimes, but 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: 405 980 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 31 October 1995.