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**PUBLIC STATEMENT  
SAUDI ARABIA  
GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT**

A spokesperson for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a statement to the media in response to the latest report\* published by Amnesty International.

“Regrettably, this statement fails to address the substantive concerns detailed in our latest report on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia,” Amnesty International said.

The statement as reported in the media expressed the Kingdom’s commitment to implement the UN Convention against Torture, to cooperate with international human rights bodies, and to set up governmental and non-governmental institutions to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights.

This statement is similar to other statements made by the Saudi Arabian Deputy Foreign Minister, Prince Turki bin Muhamad bin Saud Alkabeer, to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva today in which he affirmed that “human rights are a non-negotiable objective”, and that “ the Kingdom and the other states members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are jointly seeking to promote the universality of human rights”, and emphasizing the support of the Saudi Arabian government to “the commendable endeavours [of the UN Human Rights Commission] to achieve the noble aims and objectives of the promotion of human rights in a firm and steadfast manner”.

“These publicly stated commitments are a step in the right direction but they must be translated into practice,” Amnesty International said. As a start, the organization added, “ the government should allow an Amnesty International delegation to visit the country to meet members of the judiciary and officials.”

The organization is seeking clarification from the Saudi Arabian government about the newly established human rights structures, including their terms of reference and composition, reiterating its request for a constructive dialogue on human rights issues.

*\* Saudi Arabia: A Secret State of Suffering AI Index: MDE 23/01/00*

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