

UA 119/00

Sharp inc.

SAUDI ARABIA Falih bin Muslih bin Hujayj al-Luhaybi
Mush'el bin Hamdan bin Hilal al-Harbi (Saudi Arabian)
Hanifa bin Hamza Bubakudi (Indian national)
Sheikh Luqman Muhammad Awl (Nigerian national)
Adishno 'Abd-al-Wasi (Nigerian national)
Taj-al-Din Adibayo Luwal (Nigerian national)
Bayu Ibrahim Bulhan (Nigerian national)
Niyar Mubarak Wayl (Nigerian national)
'Abd-al-Fattah Ulsjin Amos (Nigerian national)
'Uthman Muhammad Ibrahim (Nigerian national)
'Issa Khan Sa'id-Allah (Pakistani national)
Munqistab Abrahah walad Qiril (Eritrean national)
Kidani Balabi Dista (Eritrean national)

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that Saudi Arabia has greatly increased its use of the death penalty and of amputation of hands and feet as punishment. The 13 people named above were executed in the last six days.

At least 50 people are reportedly facing charges that carry the death penalty, though official figures of how many people are on death row, and when they are due to be executed, are not published. The Saudi Arabian government has not replied to Amnesty International's requests for information on these people.

So far this year there have been 15 amputations, compared with two in the whole of 1999. Seven of these were "cross amputations" (amputation of right hand and left foot). The last three cross amputations were carried out on 13 May: Kindi Amoro Muhammad, Nurayn Aladi Amos and 'Abdullah Abu-Bakr Mohammad, all Nigerian nationals, had been convicted of armed robbery and assault along with the seven Nigerians named above.

Amnesty International considers judicial amputation to be a form of torture as defined in international human rights law. It therefore considers Saudi Arabia to have violated the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which it became a state party in 1997.

Amnesty International is concerned that capital trials in Saudi Arabia do not comply with internationally recognized standards, including the 1984 United Nations Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of those facing the death penalty and Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Defendants do not have the right to formal representation by defense lawyers; foreign nationals reportedly are not always provided with adequate interpretation facilities and access to consular assistance; and confessions can be used as the sole basis for convictions. Even confessions obtained under torture are sometimes used, although Saudi Arabia acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Punishment in September 1997.

While recognizing the right and responsibility of all governments to bring to justice those guilty of recognizably criminal offences, Amnesty International defends the fundamental, internationally recognized rights of all people, including the right to life and the right to freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as enshrined in Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing dismay at the increased use of the death penalty and amputations in Saudi Arabia, and calling for an immediate halt to executions and amputations; and the commutation of all outstanding death sentences;
- calling for clarification of reports that at least 50 people are imprisoned in Saudi Arabia facing charges which carry the death penalty;
- urging that international standards for capital trials are strictly observed.

APPEALS TO (please note that Saudi fax numbers can be very unreliable):

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 the Interior

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: Interior Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 404416
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Royal Highness
Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Faxes: + 966 1 403 0159
Telexes: 405000
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency
Dr. 'Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 405 980 MINJUS SJ
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: 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 18 July 2000.