

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/81/00

30 November 2000

Further information on UA 253/00 (MDE 23/68/00, 24 August 2000) and follow-up (MDE 23/74/00, 22 September 2000) - Fear of Torture/Possible Prisoner of Conscience

SAUDI ARABIA Sheikh 'Ali bin 'Ali al-Ghanim

Sheikh 'Ali bin 'Ali al-Ghanim has reportedly been sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Amnesty International is concerned that he may have been convicted on the basis of activities relating to his Shi'a religious beliefs, and if so would consider him a prisoner of conscience.

His trial was held in secret and no information is available as to the exact charges against him.

Sheikh 'Ali bin 'Ali al-Ghanim was arrested on 11 August, on Saudi Arabia's border with Jordan, at the al-Haditha checkpoint.

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

- asking for details of the trial proceedings and charges against Sheikh 'Ali bin 'Ali al-Ghanim;
- expressing concern that he may be a prisoner of conscience, in which case he should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely, protected from torture and given regular access to his family, lawyers and any medical attention he needs.

APPEALS TO:

King and Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud,
Office of H.M. The King, Royal Court,
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: 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,
P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road,
Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 403 1185

Telex: 404416

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Nasseriya Street,
Riyadh 11124, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2

Fax: + 966 1 403 0159
Telex:405000
Salutation:Your Royal Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Dr. 'Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
University Street,
Riyadh 11137, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 401 1741

Telex: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 10 January 2001.