

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 493/90 (MDE 23/11/90, 6 December 1990) - Detention and Fear of Torture of Prisoner of Conscience

SAUDI ARABIA:Salih al-'Azzaz

Amnesty International has received information indicating that at the end of December 1990, Salih al-'Azzaz was allowed access to his family for the first time since his arrest on 6 November. The family is reported to have since visited him twice at his place of detention in the Mabahith al-'Amma (General Intelligence) Headquarters in the 'Ulaisha district of Riyadh. He is said to be in good health.

Salih al-'Azzaz, a prominent writer and journalist, was arrested on 6 November 1990 in Riyadh, reportedly while taking photographs of a women's demonstration, which was protesting the country's traditional ban on female drivers. He was reportedly arrested on suspicion of being one of the organizers of the demonstration.

Amnesty International continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Airmail letters:

- continuing to urge the immediate and unconditional release of Salih al-'Azzaz;
- welcoming the news that he has been allowed family visits, and seeking assurances that he is guaranteed such visits on a regular basis and that he is also allowed access to a lawyer and medical attention, where necessary.

APPEALS TO:

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines
King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz
Head of State, Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines and
Prime Minister
Office of His Majesty the King
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

His Royal Highness
Crown Prince 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-'Aziz
First Deputy Prime Minister
Office of H.R.H. The Crown Prince and
First Deputy Prime Minister
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 February 1991.