

PUBLIC

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Fea.

**SAUDI ARABIA Two Filipino women in their thirties, names unknown
Possibly 13 others**

Amnesty International is concerned that two Filipino women may face imminent flogging. The women were reported on 10 May 1999 to have been sentenced to 700 lashes each and two years imprisonment for carrying out illegal abortions. The sentence was handed down by a court in the city of Jeddah.

Abortions are illegal in Saudi Arabia except on medical grounds.

Amnesty International is concerned that a further 13 people may also be at risk of flogging. It was also reported on 10 May that seven women and four men, all Indonesian nationals, were arrested in Riyadh. Reports have suggested that the group may have been arrested in connection with carrying out abortions. Earlier this month, a Somali or Ethiopian woman and her husband were reportedly arrested for carrying out illegal abortions. If convicted these people may be at risk of flogging.

Amnesty International has not received any information as to the identity of these people.

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

- appealing for the two Filipino women's sentences of 700 lashes to be commuted to a more humane punishment;
- seeking clarification of the charges against all those arrested and of the judicial proceedings against them;
- expressing concern about the judicial punishment of lashes, which Amnesty International considers to be a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, 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

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
Faxes: +966 1 403 1185 (this appears to be a telephone number during office hours local time - which are variable - it might be switched to a fax machine at other hours)
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: diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.