

PUBLIC
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AI Index: MDE

29 August 2003

Further Information on UA 80/03 (MDE 23/001/2003, 19 March 2003) and follow-up (MDE 23/002/2003, 20 March 2003) - Torture / Incommunicado detention / Possible Prisoner of Conscience

SAUDI ARABIA **Muhammad Rajkhan (m)**

Possible prisoner of conscience, Muhammad Rajkhan has reportedly been tortured, whilst being held in incommunicado detention at *al-Ruwais* prison in Jeddah. This may have resulted in him suffering from a burst eardrum and substantial weight loss.

Father of seven, Muhammad Rajkhan, was arrested outside the grocery store he owned near his home city of Jeddah by members of *al-Mahbahith al-'Amma* (General Investigations) on 8 February. He was taken to the capital Riyadh where he was held in incommunicado detention at *al-Mabahith al-'Amma* prison in Riyadh, before being transferred to *al-Ruwais* prison in Jeddah. The exact reason for his arrest is unknown, but he may have been detained solely for the peaceful expression of his consciously held religious or political beliefs. If this is the case, Amnesty International would consider him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Muhammad Rajkhan has not been formally charged with a recognizably criminal offence nor has he appeared before a judge. He has also been denied access to a lawyer. Between 1 February and 15 March 2003, two of his brothers were detained reportedly because they possess pilot's licences. They were held incommunicado until they were released without trial.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Muhammad Rajkhan has been tortured;
- urging the authorities to carry out a full and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, and that anyone suspected of his torture be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that Muhammad Rajkhan will not be subjected to further torture or ill-treated and that he is given regular access to family, lawyers and any medical attention he may need;
- urging the authorities to release Muhammad Rajkhan immediately, if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- if he is not to be released, ask for details of the charges against him and for information on any subsequent trial proceedings.

APPEALS TO:

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 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)

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
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

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

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 October 2003.