

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/011/2002

27 September 2002

Further information on UA 35/01 (MDE 23/002/2001, 6 February 2001) and follow-up (MDE 23/008/2002, 29 July 2002) - Risk of Execution/Legal and Torture Concerns

SAUDI ARABIA William Sampson (m), Canadian national
Alexander Mitchell (m), British national
Raf Schyvens (m), Belgian national, and others

According to press reports, the death sentences imposed on William Sampson and Alexander Mitchell may have been referred to the King for ratification or clemency, which is the final appeal stage of Saudi Arabia's secretive judicial system. Amnesty International fears that the two prisoners may be at imminent risk of execution.

They were accused in connection with a series of bombings which took place in Riyadh in November 2000, in which one man was killed and many others injured. Their "confessions", shown on Saudi Arabian television in February 2001 before their trial, are reported to have been the main evidence in their conviction and sentencing. Raf Schyvens, and five other defendants involved in the same trial, are said to have received prison sentences.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that William Sampson and Alexander Mitchell may be at risk of imminent execution, and calling for the commutation of the death sentence against them;
- urging that the 1984 UN Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of prisoners facing the death penalty must be adhered to immediately;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are treated humanely, and urging that they be given immediate access to family, lawyers and medical care as necessary.

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

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

P.O. Box 2933,

Airport Road,

Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 403 1185

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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,

2

Riyadh 11137, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 401 1741

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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 8 November 2002.