

UA 140/00

Increasing numbers of executions andamputation**SAUDI ARABIA**

executed: Adnan bin Abdullah bin Qassim bin Salih, Saudi Arabian
Muhammad Mustafa Kamal 'Adb al-Kadir Jadu, Egyptian
Nawaf bin Marzouq bin Abdullah, Nationality unknown
Mas'ad bin Luwayfi bin Khadir, Nationality unknown
Salim Ahmad Hassan Mash'ali, Iraqi
Zin Allah Khan Arjun Khan, Pakistani
Al-Hajji bin Sataru bin Adimula bin Yusuf, Nigerian
Manuel Biruna, Filipino

Executions in Saudi Arabia continue at an alarming rate. The eight people named above were executed between 25-30 May. So far this year Saudi Arabia has executed 49 people, 25 of them in the past month. It is impossible to know the names of all those on death row or how many face execution in the next few days and weeks.

Of those executed this year 17 were Saudi Arabian nationals and 28 were foreign nationals from Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Egypt and Iraq. The nationality of four others is not known.

Muhammad Mustafa Kamal 'Abd al-Kadir Jadu, an Egyptian national convicted of murder, was executed on 26 May and reportedly his body was then crucified.

The number of reported amputations as punishment has also increased significantly this year. To date Amnesty International has recorded 18 amputations, seven of which have been cross amputations - amputation of the right hand and left foot. The organisation recorded two amputations in the whole of 1999.

While Amnesty International does not know how many people are on death row or how many face amputation, the organization fears that there are many more people currently in Saudi Arabian prisons, whose names we do not know, who could lose their lives or limbs tomorrow, during the next week or at any time in the weeks and months to come. Most, if not all, will have been sentenced after grossly unfair trials in which even the most basic rights, such as the right to be defended by a lawyer and the right to an effective appeal are denied. They may also have been convicted solely on the basis of confessions obtained under duress, torture or deception.

Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of all governments to bring to justice those guilty of recognizably criminal offences.

However, Amnesty International is fundamentally opposed to the death penalty as the ultimate violation of the right to life and considers the cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment of judicial amputation to be a form of torture. The organization is committed to defending all people against the violations of these fundamental and internationally recognized rights, in line with Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences which, in addition to violent crimes, include offences with no lethal consequences such as sorcery and drug-related offences. Punishment by amputation is enforced in Saudi Arabia for offences mainly limited to cases of theft, for which the sentence is amputation of the right hand, and highway robbery, which is punished by cross amputation. Under international human rights standards the use of these punishments is contrary to the prohibition of torture and other cruel punishments.

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

- expressing dismay at the continuing use of the death penalty and amputations in Saudi Arabia, and calling for an immediate halt to executions and amputations; and the commutation of all such outstanding sentences;
- urging that international standards for capital trials are strictly observed.

APPEALS TO (please note that Saudi fax numbers can be very unreliable):

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

Telegram: Minister of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Telexes: 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

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 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
University Street
Riyadh 11137
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: + 966 1 401 1741

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 405 980 MINJUS SJ
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: 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 12 July 2000.