

URGENT ACTION

SITI ZAINAB BINTI DUHRI RUPA EXECUTED

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa was executed on 14 April in the city of Medina, for killing her employer in 1999. An Indonesian domestic worker, she had been suspected of suffering from mental illness. Neither her family nor the Indonesian government were notified in advance of her execution.

Indonesian mother of two **Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa** was executed on 14 April, 15 years after she was sentenced to death for killing her employer. The Saudi Arabian authorities had waited for more than 15 years for the youngest of the victim's children to reach adulthood, to allow the family to either pardon her or demand her execution under *qisas* (retribution).

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa had been detained in Medina Prison since 1999. According to media sources that year, Siti Zainab made her "confession" during police interrogation, and was subsequently sentenced to death. She had no legal representation throughout her detention and trial, and did not have access to a consular representative during the police interrogation. The police had suspected that she suffered from mental illness at the time of the interrogation.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 212/10. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE23/011/2010/en/>



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia is one of the top executioners in the world. In the first four months of 2015 alone, the authorities executed at least 70 people.

Saudi Arabia uses the death penalty disproportionately against foreign nationals, particularly migrant workers from poor and developing countries in Africa and Asia. Of the 70 people executed so far this year in Saudi Arabia, 29 have been foreign nationals. In 2014 Amnesty International recorded the execution of 90 people, of whom 37 were foreign nationals.

Court proceedings in Saudi Arabia fall far short of international standards for fair trial. Defendants are rarely allowed formal representation by lawyers, and in many cases are not informed of the progress of legal proceedings against them. They may be convicted solely on the basis of “confessions” obtained under duress or deception. Foreign nationals with no knowledge of Arabic – the language of pre-trial interrogation and trial hearings – are often denied adequate interpretation facilities.

Safeguard 5 of the Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty, adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1984, states: “Capital punishment may only be carried out pursuant to a final judgement rendered by a competent court after legal process which gives all possible safeguards to ensure a fair trial, at least equal to those contained in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the right of anyone suspected of or charged with a crime for which capital punishment may be imposed, to adequate legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings.”

In a report published in 2008 on the use of the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, Amnesty International highlighted the extensive use of the death penalty as well as the disproportionately high number of executions of foreign nationals from developing countries. For further information please see *Affront to Justice: Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/mde23/027/2008>).

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristics of the offender, or the method used by the state to kill the prisoner.

Name: Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa
Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 212/10 Index: MDE 23/1564/2015 Issue Date: 1 May 2015