

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 23/003/2003**

**08 May 2003**

**Further Information on EXTRA 18/01 (MDE 25/001/2001, 1 March 2001) and follow-up (MDE 25/002/2001, 16 March 2001, MDE 23/005/2002, 11 April 2002) - Fear of torture/death penalty/imminent flogging**

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**Gary Dixon (m) British national, aged 57**

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According to reports, Gary Dixon, also known as Gary O'Nions, was released and deported on 7 May 2003. He is expected to arrive in the UK on 8 May. Despite being sentenced to 800 lashes and a fine of approximately £400,000, he did not receive this punishment nor did he pay the fine.

The reasons for his sudden release are unclear.

Gary Dixon had been extradited from the United Arab Emirates to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 15 March 2001, in connection with car-bombings that took place in Saudi Arabia in late 2000. According to press reports of 2 April 2002, he was sentenced, in a trial that took place behind closed doors and without legal representation, to 800 lashes, eight years in jail and fined approximately £400,000 for producing and selling alcohol.

**No further action by the UA network is required. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.**