

**2007**

**31 January**

**UA 22/07**      **Imminent Execution**  
**SAUDI ARABIA**    **Abbas (m)**

A man known only as Abbas is reportedly due to be executed shortly for his part in a murder. He is reportedly detained in al-Dammam prison, in the country's Eastern Province.

According to a 26 January report in the Saudi Arabian daily newspaper *al-Riyadh*, Abbas "could be executed in the coming days". He was sentenced to death on murder charges in about 2000. He was apparently pardoned by the victim's relatives in exchange for payment of four million Riyals (approximately \$1,000,000) as *diyya* (financial compensation). However, Abbas's family is said to be unable to pay the *diyya* and Abbas is therefore at risk of execution.

At least five people are known to have been executed so far this year, though the true figure may be much higher.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings fall far short of international standards for fair trial.

Defendants are rarely allowed formal representation by a lawyer, 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.

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

- calling on the authorities to stop the execution of Abbas immediately, and calling on the King to commute his death sentence;
- acknowledging that the government has the right and responsibility to bring to justice those responsible for criminal offences, but expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty.

### **APPEALS TO:**

King Abdullah Bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud  
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques  
Office of His Majesty The King  
Royal Court  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Salutation:            Your Majesty**

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud  
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**  
**+ 966 1 403 3614**

**Salutation:            Your Royal Highness**

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nasseriya Street  
Riyadh 11124

**Fax:                    +966 1 403 0645**  
**Salutation:            Your Royal Highness**

**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 14 March 2007.

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