

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/008/2002

29 July 2002

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

SAUDI ARABIA

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

Amnesty International is concerned at press reports that Alexander Mitchell and William Sampson have been sentenced to death by a Saudi Arabian court following a summary, secret and unfair trial.

They were accused in connection with the bombings which took place in Riyadh in November 2000. Their "confessions", shown on Saudi Arabian television in February 2001 before their trial, may have been the main or contributory evidence in their conviction and sentencing. Raf Schyvens, and five other defendants involved in the same trial, are said to have received prison sentences.

Amnesty International considers the televised "confession" of the three as implying their guilt before any trial has taken place, and as such, is a breach of Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states that "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees for his defence".

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

- seeking clarification of press reports that Alexander Mitchell and William Sampson have been sentenced to death; and, if true, calling for commutation of the death sentence;
- seeking clarification of the exact charges against all the defendants together with the trial procedure followed in their case;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are treated humanely, and urging that they be given immediate access to family, lawyers and medical care as necessary;
- urging that the 1984 UN Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of prisoners facing the death penalty must be adhered to immediately.

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,
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 9 September 2002.