

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/011/2005

09 August 2005

Further Information on UA 52/05 (MDE 23/004/2005, 3 March 2005) - Medical Concern/Possible prisoner of conscience

SAUDI ARABIA Dr Sa'id Bin Zu'air (m), aged about 55, university professor

Possible prisoner of conscience Dr Sa'id Bin Zu'air was granted a royal pardon by King Abdullah on 8 August. He is expected to be released on 9 August.

Dr Sa'id Bin Zu'air had been detained in al-Ha'ir prison, Riyadh, since April 2004, after he criticised the government in a televised debate. He had been released in March 2003 after eight years detained without charge or trial over previous criticisms of the government. During this earlier period of imprisonment two of his sons, Sa'ad Bin Sa'id Bin Zu'air and Mubarak Bin Sa'id Bin Zu'air, were detained after they campaigned for his release. Sa'ad Bin Sa'id Bin Zu'air was released in July 2005 after almost three years held incommunicado. His brother was released at the beginning of this year.

Dr Sa'id Bin Zu'air was pardoned along with four other men who had been detained in connection with their calls for government reform. (See UA 112/04, MDE 23/003/2004, 17 March 2004 and follow-ups.)

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