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SAUDI ARABIA

DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF SUSPECTED POLITICAL OPPONENTS

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SUMMARY

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The detention without trial of suspected political opponents is cause for grave concern in Saudi Arabia.

There appears to be a clear pattern of suspected political opponents being arrested without warrant and held for long periods without trial - sometimes for over two years. During the first few days or weeks detainees are usually in solitary confinement, routinely tortured or ill-treated and denied access to family or legal counsel. Existing legislation regulating arrest and detention procedures in Saudi Arabia do not appear to be strictly enforced as regards political detainees, who are not entitled to be promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest nor to affectively challenge their continued detention before a judicial or other authority.

Amnesty International has raised with the authorities the issue of detention without trial, pointing out that this violates fundamental human rights - but has received no response. Recent information received suggests that the government's political opponents are being detained without trial. The names and details of 66 such cases are published in the attached document as Appendices A, B, C and D. Appendix E contains the photographs of some of the detainees.

This summarizes a 27 page document, Saudi Arabia: Detention Without Trial of Suspected Political Opponents (AI index MOE 23/04/89), issued by Amnesty International in January, 1990. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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SAUDI ARABIA:

DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF SUSPECTED POLITICAL OPPONENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Hundreds of suspected political opponents, including prisoners of conscience, have been arrested and detained without trial in recent years in Saudi Arabia. Most have been Shi'a Muslims from the Eastern Province. At least 100 such detainees were held in 1989 alone, a small number of whom were released during the year.

In Saudi Arabia political parties and trade unions are banned. Over the years a clear pattern has emerged whereby individuals suspected of being members or sympathizers of opposition groups have been arrested by al-Mabahith al- 'Amma (General Intelligence). These groups have included al-Ikhwan (the Brothers), Munadhamat al-Thawra al-Islamiyya fil Jazira al-'Arabiyya (the Organization of Islamic Revolution in The Arabian Peninsula), al-Hizbul—Shiu'y fil Sau'diyya (the Communist Party in Saudi Arabia), Hizbul—'Amal al—Ishtiraki al-'Arabi-al-Jazira al-Arabiyya (The Arab Socialist Action Party - The Arabian Peninsula) and Hizbullah fil Hijaz (Party of God in the Hijaz). In all cases known to Amnesty International, political detainees have not been informed of the reasons for their arrest and have been held for prolonged periods without trial, in some cases for over two years. During the first few days or weeks detainees are usually held in solitary confinement, are routinely tortured or ill-treated and are denied access to family or legal counsel. Generally, access to family members is permitted after interrogation has been completed and the detainees have been transferred to communal cells.

In 1982 Amnesty International learned about the cases of over 120 untried political detainees, some of whom the organization feared might be prisoners of conscience. Among those detained were Fawzia al-Bakr, lecturer at the sociology department of the University of Riyadh; Salih al- 'Azzaz, editor-in-chief of al-Yawm newspaper (see section 3.4); and a number of journalists, teachers and students.

During 1983 Amnesty International was aware of the names of over 170 untried political detainees. They included Widad al-Qumri Abdul-Mun'im, a 42-year-old Palestinian school teacher and member of the Executive Committee of the General Union of Palestinian Women.

In 1984, between August and December, 62 people were detained in connection with an attempt to organize a political party.

During 1985 over 100 alleged political opponents of the government were arrested and held in untried detention. Many of the arrests were reported to have taken place on or after Yawm al 'Ashura (10 Muharram/25 September) when participants in the processions commemorating the death of Imam Hussein, grandson of the prophet Muhammad (see section 3.1.1) demonstrated for the release of untried political prisoners. The demonstrations were broken up by riot police and the National Guard and many arrests followed. Most of the arrests were reported to have taken place in Saihat, al-lhsa' al-Qatif and Safwa in the Eastern Province, and those arrested were mainly followers of the Shi'a branch of Islam. Among them were students, teachers, religious scholars, merchants, engineers, doctors and employees at oil installations. They included 'Alawi Muhammad Makki, a 32-year-old Saudi Arabian international swimmer who was detained while taking part in the Haj (holy pilgrimage).

In 1986 over 140 alleged political opponents or critics of the government were detained without trial. Among them was Makkiyya 'Abdullah Hamdan who was reportedly arrested after midnight at her home on 24 July after trying to discover the whereabouts of her husband who had been detained in May. Most were released by the end of the year following a general amnesty.

Throughout 1987 Shi'a Muslims suspected of opposing the government were reportedly arrested and held in untried detention. Most reports related to arrests which had taken place in the Eastern Province after clashes in Mecca between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi Arabian security forces. The Saudi Arabian authorities publicly denied holding any political prisoners.

In April 1988 following explosions at oil installations in Jubail in the Eastern Province, suspected political opponents of the government were arrested and held in untried detention. All were Shi'a Muslims and were arrested in the Eastern Province towns of Saihat, Safwa, al-Rabi'iyya, al-Qatif, Taroot and Senabes. Among them were religious scholars, teachers, students and engineers. They included Nasser 'Abdullah al-Yusuf, a 26-year-old former employee of the Ministry of Education, and Sheikh 'Abdul-Karim al-Hubail from al-Rabi'iyya. Nasser 'Abdullah al-Yusuf had previously been detained without charge or trial in 1985 while a student at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh and was released at the end of 1986.

Over the years Amnesty International has raised with the Saudi Arabian authorities the issue of detention without trial of suspected political opponents, stating that this practice has led to violations of fundamental human rights standards enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These include freedom from being subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention and the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.

The organization has received no response from the Saudi Arabian authorities to any communication on this issue.

2. DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL: LEGAL ASPECTS

Saudi Arabia has neither a penal code nor a constitution. The principal source of legislation is the Shari'a (Islamic law), the interpretation of which is largely entrusted to the Council of Senior 'Ulama (religious scholars). Justice is administered according to the Shari'a as defined by the Hanbali school of jurisprudence — one of the four schools of jurisprudence within Sunni Islam. The religious or Shari'a courts fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. The creation of a Ministry of Justice in 1970 contributed towards the codification of existing laws and led to improvements in the organization of the judicial system. Legislation is by royal decree or by ministerial regulations sanctioned by the King.

In November 1983 a 'Statute of Principles of Arrest, Temporary Confinement and Preventive Detention' (Umm ul-Qura, the Official Gazette No. 2988, 11 November 1983, pp.24-29) was issued by the Minister of Interior and is believed to be still in force. In the absence of any other laws regulating arrest and detention procedures it appears that this statute applies to all cases including those suspected of political as well as criminal offences.

Under Article 1 of the Statute the security forces are empowered to arrest and detain "...any person in a situation giving rise to suspicion". They must then begin questioning the detainee and his case must be brought before the investigating authority within 24 hours of arrest [Article 3]. Detention beyond this period must be authorized by a written order issued by the investigating authority [Article 5]. After three days of arrest, and where "there is evidence against the detainee" of his having committed a "major offence", he must be formally charged, a warrant for his detention must be issued and his transfer effected to a public prison (Articles 7 and 9 (2a)). Major offences include violating the Shari'a; trafficking in firearms; participating in riotous gatherings in which firearms and other weapons are used; participating in collective or intertribal disorders and resisting public order officials [Article 10].

Detention should not exceed 21 days from the date of arrest [Article 12]. However, if the investigation has not been concluded within this period, the investigating authorities may request from the Office of the Governor of the province (al-Imara) the prolongation of detention for an additional 30 days [Article 13(a) and (b)]. The detainee may lodge an objection to this request to the Office of the Governor [Articles 19 and 20]. Article 18 empowers the Governor of the province, or whomever he delegates among the province's higher officials, to order the continued detention of the suspect beyond the 30 days until a final decision on the case is taken by the executive authority i.e. the Ministry of Interior. If, at this stage, the detainee is neither released nor committed to trial, he may challenge his continuing detention (the Statute is not explicit about how this may be done). The Office of the Governor must then form a review committee composed of a legal expert who is a government official and a representative of the police to examine his case [Article 21]. The Statute does not specify whether the presence of the detainee before the review committee is mandatory. In practice, however, the detainee is generally present but has no legal counsel and must prepare his own defence.

Amnesty International believes that many of the provisions of the Statute have not been applied in the cases of political detainees. According to testimonies received from former detainees, political suspects have been arrested and have not been informed of any subsequent charges brought against them. This is contrary to the provisions of Article 9 (2a) of the Statute and international standards, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Saudi Arabia is not a State Party. Article 9(2) of the ICCPR states:

'Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him'

In many cases political detainees are reported to have been held in solitary confinement both before and throughout their interrogation, in some cases for over six months. During such periods many allege that they were tortured by falaqa (beating on the soles of the feet), tas-hir (sleep deprivation) and ta'lig (suspension by the wrists from the ceiling or a high window). For example, Sheikh Muhammad al-Silebi, a 24-year-old religious scholar arrested on 3 March 1989 at al-Hudaitha check point on the Saudi-Jordanian frontier, was reportedly tortured while held incommunicado and in solitary confinement for three months in the custody of al-Mabahith al 'Ammah in al-Dammam. In June, he was hospitalized for one week at Riyadh Central Hospital, apparently as a result of his torture, but he was then returned to detention in solitary confinement at al-Dammam. His health reportedly deteriorated further and in August, Amnesty International issued an international appeal on his behalf urging that he be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence. He was freed uncharged on 8 September 1989.

Some former political detainees have told Amnesty International that, after interrogation, they were brought before a committee composed of two officials: the interrogator in charge of their case and a legal expert. In some cases, the prison director was also present. Amnesty International does not know whether this committee was intended to fulfil the same function as the 'review committee' referred to in Article 21 of the Statute. Political detainees have told Amnesty International that they were not brought before this committee unless and until they had signed a "confession". The committee generally confined itself to asking the detainees to acknowledge the substance of their signed confessions, in a process usually lasting no more than several minutes. Those who did so have said they were immediately returned to their cells and were not informed about any subsequent legal proceedings which may have been followed in their cases. They were brought before the committee without any advance notice, not provided with any information about its role or function and not given access to legal counsel. Contrary to the provisions of Articles 19-21 of the Statute, detainees felt that, effectively, they had been prevented from meaningfully exercising their right to object against the prolongation of their detention or to challenge their detention. Furthermore, Amnesty International is not aware of any legal provisions in Saudi Arabian law permitting political detainees to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before a court of law in accordance with international law. This is contrary to the provisions of Article 9(4) of the ICCPR:

"Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful".

According to detainees who had refused to acknowledge the substance of their 'confessions', or who had claimed that these had been extracted under torture, they were once more returned to military confinement and subjected to repeated interrogation and torture until they relented. One such case was that of a 25-year-old suspected political opponent from Taroot, who was detained in solitary confinement for 81 days in al-Mabahith al-Amma Prison in al-Dammam in 1987. He told Amnesty International:

"I was interrogated continuously for 25 days and was forced to confess to having carried out anti-government religious activities. Late at night the next day I was brought before four men: the prison director. Two interrogators who had been involved in questioning me, and a fourth person who asked me to certify my confession. I said it had been extracted under torture, and showed him the traces on my body, he accused me of lying and ordered that I be interrogated again. I was held once more in solitary confinement for 18 days, and then interrogated continuously for 36 days. During this period I was severely tortured in order to force me to certify my confession. I was brought before the same persons again on the 79th day of my detention, whereupon I certified my confession, which included a statement to the effect that I had not been tortured. I was released two days later."

Another case was that of Yassir 'Ali Muhammad Al Faraj, a 22-year-old maintenance worker at King Fahd airport near Dhahran, who was arrested in July 1988 and released in the first half of December 1988. According to his testimony to Amnesty International, he was brought before a committee on two separate occasions before he had finally agreed to certify the confession. Such practices contravene Article 14(3) g of the ICCPR which states that a detainee may not "... be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt"

From the moment of arrest, detainees were denied access to defence counsel, contrary to the provisions of Article 14 (3b) of the ICCPR which states that a detainee shall be entitled to "... adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing". Generally, family visits were permitted only after interrogation had ended and the detainees had been transferred to communal cells (al-'anbar).

3. DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL: THE PRACTICE

3.1 Background

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came into being in September 1932 when King 'Abdul- 'Aziz Al-Saud brought most of the Arabian Peninsula under his control. All but a very few of Saudi Arabian citizens are Muslims and the vast majority of them are Sunni. Estimates of the Shi'a population vary considerably from 10% to 15% of the Kingdom's inhabitants. They live mainly in the oil rich Eastern Province but small Shi'a communities may also be found in 'Asir, the Hijaz and in the vicinity of the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

In Saudi Arabia, political parties and trade unions are banned and censorship of the press is strictly enforced. As a result political opposition to the government has remained clandestine and has been the subject of repeated repression. In recent years hundreds of suspected political opponents, including prisoners of conscience, have been detained without trial. During 1989 at least 100 suspected members or sympathisers of several prohibited political parties have been detained without charge or trial. Most have been Shi'a Muslims from the Eastern Province.

3.1.1 The Shi'a in Saudi Arabia

In Shi'ism believers are called upon to choose one of the senior religious scholars (Ayatollahs) who will serve as their guide and point of reference (Marja). The pronouncements of the Marja', which may relate to issues ranging from the conduct of believers in their daily lives to complex religious and political questions, become binding on his followers. The majority of the Shi'a in Saudi Arabia follow one of three Marja's: Ayatollah Abul-Qassem al-Kho'i, who resides in the Shi'a holy city of Najaf in Iraq and has called for the separation of religion from politics. Most of the politically inactive Saudi Arabian Shia appear to follow his line; Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad al-Shirazi, an Iraqi national living in exile in Qom in Iran, whose ideas have been adopted by Munadhamat al Thawra al Islamiyya fil Jazira al-Arabiyya (The Organization of Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula), the principal organized Shia opposition group in Saudi Arabia; and Ayatollah Khomeini, the spiritual leader of the Iranian revolution, some of whose followers have been active under the name of Hizbullah fil Hijaz (The Party of God in Hijaz). They first became known in 1987 in the aftermath of the clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi Arabian security forces in Mecca.

The Shia opposition in Saudi Arabia has long claimed that members of their community are treated as second-class citizens and are subjected to religious discrimination. They have stated that the oil boom of the mid-1970s, which turned Saudi Arabia into one of the most affluent societies of the Middle East, was of little benefit to the Shi'a, whose regions remained, at least initially, underdeveloped and deprived of government investments. In addition, the Shi'a have not been allowed to practise some of their religious rites, such as the procession of 'Ashura (the commemoration of the death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet's grandson, in 680 AD in Kerbala - Iraq).

The Iranian revolution in 1979 inculcated a new and radical awareness in the Shi'a all over the world. In Saudi Arabia it seems to have contributed towards strengthening the Shia perception of their apparent second class religious and economic status. In November 1979, large scale manifestations of Shi'a discontent broke out in the Eastern Province. In that month, Shi'a religious leaders in al-Qatif insisted on staging the traditional procession of Ashura. Riots broke out when the authorities tried to suppress the procession and at least 27 people were reportedly killed. Soon demonstrations spread to other towns and villages and they continued intermittently for about four months.

Following these events and, as part of a new policy, the government allocated substantial funds for the development of the Shi'a regions. By 1984, a new administration had been established in the Eastern Province headed by Prince Muhammad bin Fahd, the son of the King. However, the Shi'a still do not enjoy full religious rights and the procession of Ashura is still not permitted in Saudi Arabia. As recently as 24 September 1989 nine Shi'a were arrested in al-'Awamiyya in the Eastern Province in connection with attempts to stage a procession for 'Ashura. They included Muhammad Abdul-Rahim al-Faraj, an 18-year-old student and 'Abdullah 'Ali Musa, a 29-year-old Saudi ARAMCO employee. All were released uncharged on 4 October.

3.2 Alleged Members or Sympathizers of Munadhamat al—Thawra al-Islamiyya fil Jazira al-Arabiyya (The Organization of Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula - OIRAP)

In the period between March and September 1989, 21 alleged members or sympathizers of the OIRAP were arrested mainly in the Eastern province towns of al-'Awamiyya, al—Ju'aima, Safwa, Senabes, al-Awjam and Dhahran. Others were arrested in Riyadh and at check points on the borders with Kuwait and Jordan. They include religious scholars, students, merchants and employees of Saudi ARAMCO whose ages range from 20 to 30. Among them is Yusuf Hussein Jawad al-Ribeh, a 26-year-old employee of Saudi Electricity Company, arrested in al-Ju'aima on 22 March 1989. He was previously detained without charge or trial between 1982 and 1983. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on behalf of eight of them expressing its concern at reports that they were being subjected to torture and ill-treatment. They included two religious scholars, Sayyid Tahir al-Shimimy and Sheikh 'Ali 'Abdul—Karim al- Awa. Both had been previously detained without charge or trial for several months in 1986.

Amnesty International is also aware of the cases of four other alleged members or sympathizers of the OIRAP arrested between July and October 1988 and since detained without trial in the Mabath al-Amma prison in al-Dammam. Three are students and one is a student of religious studies. Among them is Muhsin Mahdi al-Makhamil, arrested at Riyadh airport in October 1988 while on his way to India. At the time of his arrest he was 17 years old.

All 25 detainees, adopted by Amnesty International as Prisoners of Conscience, are reported to be currently held in the Mabath al- 'Amma prison in al—Dammam. They were all held incommunicado before and during interrogation. At the end of the year they remained in untried detention. Their details are summarized in Appendix A.

The OIRAP was founded in 1975, four years before the Iranian revolution. Under the influence of the ideas of Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad al-Shirazi (see section 3.1.1), the organization has defined its mission to be primarily that of educating and enlightening the masses". It has stated that the Shi'a in Saudi Arabia are discriminated against and has urged that they be granted equal rights. There is no evidence in its publications of calls to violence or armed actions. The organization reportedly remained unresponsive to Iranian appeals for Jihad (holy war) against the Saudi Arabian government following the clashes in 1987 between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi Arabian security forces in Mecca. At least two alleged members of the organization, Saud Hamad and Ahmad Mahdi Yhamis, were reported to have died while in the custody of the Mabath al- Amma in 1981 and 1986 respectively, apparently as a result of torture.

Since 1979 hundreds of alleged members or sympathizers of the organization have been detained for prolonged periods and then released uncharged. In many such cases, Amnesty International believed that the persons concerned were detained solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs. For example, Sheikh Hassan Makki al-Khuwailidi, a leading Shi'a scholar, was arrested on 31 October 1988 after delivering a sermon on Shi'ism and detained without charge or trial. He had previously been detained without charge or trial on four separate occasions, one of them for over a year. In mid-April 1989, Amnesty International appealed on his behalf to the authorities. The organization received no response; however, it later learned that Sheikh Hassan al-Khuwailidi was released on 24 April.

3.3 Alleged members or sympathizers of Hizbullah fil Hijaz (Party of God in the Hijaz - PGH)

Following the reported sabotage of a petrochemical plant in al-Jubail in April 1988, a number of Shi'a suspected of being alleged members or sympathizers of P1311 were arrested in the Eastern Province, principally in al-Rabi'iyya and Saihat. In the period April - August 1988 an estimated 40 such persons were detained. Four of them were executed on 20 September 1988 in what may have been retroactive implementation of Edict 148, which introduced the death penalty for those convicted of acts of sabotage or "corruption on earth" which "undermine security and endanger lives and public or private property" (Edict No 148 of 24 August 1988 issued by the Council of Senior 'Ulama, religious scholars). In the first half of 1989, 20 were released but by November 1989 16 others from this group remained in detention without trial. They include students of religious studies, religious scholars, students, and engineers whose ages range from 21 to 31 years. All were first held in the Mabath al- 'Ammah prison in al-Dammam and then transferred to the Mabath al- 'Ammah prison in Riyadh where they are currently believed to be held. Several had previously been detained without trial including Sheikh, Ja'far 'Ali al-Mubarak, a 30-year-old religious scholar from Safwa who was detained in 1985 and released in 1987 following a general amnesty. They have all been allowed at least two family visits since their arrest, Amnesty International has raised their cases with the Saudi Arabian authorities, urging that they be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

In September 1989, Amnesty International learned of the arrest of another alleged member or sympathizer of PGH. Sayyid Adnan Sayyid Muhammad al-Yusuf, 27 years old, was arrested at the beginning of July 1989 in al-Ihsa' where he is currently being held. He had previously been arrested on two separate occasions between 1982 and December 1983 and between 1986 and 1987, and held without charge or trial. Prior to his last arrest, he was living in exile in Damascus and is reported to have returned to the country after receiving assurances from the Saudi Arabian embassy there as to his safety.

More recently, three other suspected members or sympathizers of PGH were detained in October 1989. They are Sheikh Ibrahim al-Battat, a 48-year-old religious scholar from al-Ihsa', Hussein Mansur Abbas, an employee of Saudi Electricity Company, from Saihat, and Sayyid Yasin al Sayigh, a religious scholar from al-Qatif. All the 20 detainees from this group were held incommunicado before and during their interrogation. Their details are summarized in Appendix B.

3.4 Alleged Members or Sympathizers of Hizbul- 'Amal al-Ishtiraki al- 'Arabi al-Jazira al- 'Arabiyya (The Arab Socialist Action Party - The Arabian Peninsula - ASAP-AP)

In the last week of March 1989, six alleged members or sympathizers of the ASAP-AP were arrested, five of them in Safwa and one in Riyadh. They were held without trial in the Mabath al- 'Ammah Prison in al-Dammam. Four of the detainees were employees of Sa'udi ARAMCO. The other two are Adil Salman 'Abdul-Hadi, a 32-year-old bank clerk and Muhammad Habib al-Yusuf, a 31-year-old company employee. All were held incommunicado before and during their interrogation. On 12 April 1989, Amnesty International raised their cases with Prince Naif bin 'Abul- 'Aziz, Minister of Interior, urging that they be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence. To date, the organization has received no response. However, it learned that one of them, Najib Sa'id al-Yusuf, a 28-year-old former employee of Saudi ARAMCO, has since been released. For details of those who remain in detention see Appendix C.

The ASAP-AP was founded in the 1910s by former Saudi members of the Pan-Arab Harakat al-Qawmiyyin al-Arab (The Arab Nationalist Movement). The party, which professes Marxism and does not rule out "armed struggle if the circumstances are ripe", has drawn its support mainly from the intelligentsia and the urban middle-classes. It was dealt a severe blow after the arrest in May 1982 of over one hundred of its members and sympathizers, many of whom were journalists and writers close to the daily al-Yawm (Today) newspaper which, until its closure at that time, was legally published. Following a general amnesty at the end of 1982, they were all released; however, a number of those who had been government employees were not allowed to return to their former jobs while others were reportedly denied passports to travel abroad. Since 1987 the party is said to have been gradually rebuilding its organizational apparatus.

3.5 Other Detentions

Amnesty International also continues to receive information about the arrest and detention without trial of suspected opponents of the government not known to be affiliated to any opposition groups. Amnesty International believes that 16 such persons, whose details are summarized in Appendix D, are possible prisoners of conscience.

They include five students arrested in June 1989 and held in the Mabath al-'Ammah prison in the 'Ulaisha district of Riyadh. On 15 and 16 June 1989, fires broke out in Units Three and Eight of the students' residence at King Saud University in Riyadh. A number of students, including five whose details are contained in Appendix D, attempted to put out the fires and some had to be hospitalized for burns sustained in the course of the operation. On 17 and 19 June, seven of these students, all Shi'a from the Eastern Province, were arrested. Two of them - 'Abdullah Thulais from Taroot and 'Ali Sadiq from Safwa, both in their 20s - were subsequently released. On 11 July, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on behalf of three of them following reports that they were being tortured to force them to confess to having started the fires. No official charges have been brought against them and none have been allowed access to a lawyer.

Among those more recently arrested is Muhammad Sa'ud bin Humdha, a 28-year-old student of religious studies arrested in Mecca on 10 July 1989. He was previously arrested in 1986 and released in 1987 without being charged or tried. Another case is that of Zahra' Habib Mansur al-Nasser, a 40-year-old housewife from Awjam in the Eastern Province, who was arrested with her husband, Salih al-'Akbari, on 16 July at the Hudaitha check-point on the Saudi Jordanian frontier. They were returning from Damascus after performing religious rites at the Sayyida Zainab Shrine, a holy site, a place of worship. Upon searching them, the police reportedly found a photograph of Ayatollah Khomeini and a Shi'a prayer book in Zahra' al-Nasser's possession. She was held at the Hudaitha check-point detention centre with her husband and was reportedly subjected to torture. She died three days later on 18 July and her body, allegedly bearing marks of torture, was handed over to her family; she was buried in Awjam on 20 July. Her husband was subsequently released. On 10 August Amnesty International urged the Saudi Arabian authorities to set up a public enquiry into Zahra' al-Nasser's death. No response was received.

On 10 August Ahmad Hassan al-Mutawa', a 35-year-old lecturer at King Fahd University in Dhahran, was arrested in al-Ihsa' shortly after returning to Saudi Arabia from the United States. He is currently believed to be held in al-Dammam. Five other suspected political opponents were arrested in al-Qatif and Safwa on 25 and 29 September respectively. Three of them - 'Abdul-Karim Said Khamis, a 26-year-old employee of Saudia Airlines, Muhammad Ahmad al-Sadig, a 23-year-old student at the University of Riyadh and Mahir Hassan al-Hinabi, a 21-year-old student from Safwa - were released uncharged on 4 October. The other two, Taysir al-Ghurab and Fathi al-Ghurab, remain in untried detention. For details see Appendix D.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of information collected by Amnesty International over the years, the organization has reached the following conclusions with respect to the practice of detention without trial in political cases and urges the Saudi Arabian Government to implement the recommendations set out below.

1. In all cases of political detention known to Amnesty International suspects are arrested without a warrant and without being informed of the reason for their arrest. The government should take steps to ensure that warrants are produced upon arrest of political suspects, who should be promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest and of any charges against them. This would conform with the provisions of Article 9(2) of the ICCPR.

2. Political suspects are routinely held in prolonged solitary confinement prior to and during interrogation. It is during this period that torture is reported to be systematically applied. In Amnesty International's view the practice of prolonged solitary confinement is incompatible with protecting the fundamental rights of detainees. Solitary confinement creates conditions conducive to torture or ill-treatment, and the government should end this practice.

3. Political detainees are held indefinitely by the Mabath al-'Ammah (General Intelligence) without charge or trial. They are routinely denied legal assistance and have no effective means of appealing against wrongful arrest or prolonged detention without trial. Legal provisions should be enacted granting all detainees prompt and regular access to defence counsel, relatives, and medical treatment. All detainees should be brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody, both to assess the legality and necessity of the detention as well as the treatment of the detainee. In addition, steps should be taken to enforce existing legislation which gives detainees the right to challenge their continuing detention. This would conform with the Provisions of Articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR. The government should review current detention cases, including the 66 mentioned in this document, in order to release all those detained on account of their non-violent political opinions or activities.

4. Families are given no official notification of arrest, place of detention and subsequent movement of detainees and must obtain such information through their own efforts. The government should ensure that the names of those arrested be made public and that accurate information on the whereabouts of the detainees is made available promptly after arrest to their relatives and legal counsel. This would meet the standards stipulated in Articles 37 and 44 (3) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

5. In Amnesty International's view, the practice of indefinite detention without trial of political suspects has facilitated their arbitrary arrest and the suspension of their fundamental rights while in custody. The government should urgently review the appropriateness and necessity of maintaining this practice, which should not be used as a substitute for, and means to avoid the safeguards of, the criminal justice system.

APPENDIX A: Names and details of 25 alleged members or sympathizers of Munadhamat al-Thawra al-Islamiyya fil Jazira al-Arabiyya, the Organization of Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula, currently believed to be held in al-Dammam

Name	Date & Place of Arrest	Current Place of Detention	Other Information
1 Mahdi Ahmad al-Safwani	11.7.88 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is a 23-year-old university student from Safwa
2 Malik Hassan al-Rahen	28.8.88 al-Awjam	al-Dammam	He is single; 19 years old. He is a student of religious studies from al-Awjam. A few days after arrest, he was hospitalized for three months reportedly as a result of torture. On two further occasions he was transferred to al-Dammam Central Hospital, most recently on 17 July. In August. Amnesty International expressed its concern to the authorities and asked for the reasons for his hospitalization and requested details of the medical care he received. No response was received and his current state of health is not known.
3 Jassim 'Ali 'Ashur	28.8.88 al-Awjam	al-Dammam	He is single. 24 years old from al-Awjam. He is a student of religious studies
4 Muhsin Mahdi al-Makhamil	October 1988 Riyadh airport	al-Dammam	He is single 18-year-old student from al-Awjam. He was arrested while on his way to India. At the time of his arrest he was 17
5 Sayyid Fadhil Sayyid Muhammad Sayyid Hashim Al-Sadda	January 1989 Riyadh	al-Dammam	He is single, 24-year-old university student from Safwa. He was previously arrested in November 1979 at the age of 14 and released a year later without being charged or tried. His brother Jamil was convicted in Bahrain in December 1981 for armed actions against the state and subsequently handed over to Saudi Arabia to serve his sentence. Jamil has since been held in Riyadh.
6 Sheikh Muhammad al-Mas'ud	15.3.1989 al-Qatif	al-Dammam	He is married; 23-year-old religious scholar from al-Qatif
7 Yusuf Hussein Jawad al-Ribeh	22.3.1989 al-Ju'aima	al-Dammam	He is married; 26-year-old employee of the Saudi Electricity Company. He is from al-Awamiyya. He was previously detained without charge or trial 1982-1983
8 'Abdul Razaq Mansur al-Faraj	End of March 1989 al-Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is single; 25-year-old student of religious studies from al-Awamiyya
9 Ibrahim Mahdi al-S'ayed	3.4.89 ay Dhahran Airport	al-Dammam	He is a 23-year-old student of religious studies from al-Awamiyya
10 'Ali Sa'id al-Jishi	15.4.89 al-Qatif	al-Dammam	He is a 26-year-old employee of Saudi ARAMCO. He was arrested two days after returning from Syria
11 'Abdullah 'Abdul-Karim Ahmad al-Nasser	24.5.89 Awjam	al-Dammam	He is single; 22-year-old secondary school student from al-Awjam.
12 Hassan 'Ali al-Dirura	29/5.89 Senabes	al-Dammam	He is married; 28-year-old employee of a Norwegian maritime company. He was previously held without charge or trial for two years from 1981-1983
13 Malik al-Zuri	First half of June 1989 Senabes	al-Dammam	He is unemployed; 25 years old from Senabes.
14 Adam 'Ali al-Uqaili	14.6.89 at al-hudaitha check-point on the Saudi-Jordanian frontier	al-Dammam	He is single; unemployed, 21 years old from Taroot
15 Malik Makki al-Khuwailidi	15.6.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married; 26-year-old student from Safwa. He is the brother of Sheikh Hassan al-Khuwailidi a prominent Shi'a religious scholar who, prior to his release in April 1989, had been detained without charge or trial on four separate occasions in the last ten years. In July 1989 Amnesty International

			issued urgent appeals on behalf of Malik Makki al-Khulwaildi following reports that he was being tortured.
16 Sayyid Tahir al-Shimimy	15.6.89 al-Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is married; 30-year-old religious scholar from the village of Qudaih near al-Awamiyya. He was previously detained without charge or trial in 1986 and released at the end of the year. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on his behalf following reports that he was being tortured.
17 Sheikh 'Ali 'Abdul Karim al-'Awa	15.6.89 al-'Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is married; 28-year-old religious scholar from al-Awamiyya. In 1986 he was arrested and held without charge or trial until the end of the year, when he was released. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on his behalf following reports that he was being tortured.
18 Sayyid Zaki Sayyid Makki Sayyid Shubar	15.6.89 al-Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is married; 25-year-old stationery shop owner from al-'Awamiyya. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on his behalf following reports that he was being tortured.
19 Sheikh Sira' Shibib al-Duhaim	15.6.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married; 25-year-old religious scholar from Safwa. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on his behalf following reports that he was being tortured.
20 Ja'ffar Baqer al-Nimr	15.6.89 al-'Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is married; 30-year-old grocer from al-'Awamiyya. In July 1989, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on his behalf following reports that he was being tortured. On 22 August, his brother, Taysir, was also arrested (see number 24 below)
21 Ahmad 'Ali 'Abdullah Mishaikhis	8.8.89 at al-Khafji check-point on Sa'udi-Kuwait frontier	al-Dammam	He is single; 20-year-old secondary school student from al-'Awamiyya. He was arrested while on his way to Kuwait.
22 'Abdul-Ghaffar Ahmad Muhammad al-Zahir	9.8.89 al-Dammam	al-Dammam	He is married; 28-year-old student of religious studies from al-'Awamiyya. He was summoned together with his wife, Ishtiyah al-Saif, by the Mabath al'Amma in al-Dammam. His wife was later released.
23 'Abdul-Shahid Ahmad al-Shafi'i	17.8.89 Saihat	al-Dammam	He is married; 25-year-old shopkeeper from Saihat. He was said to have been transferred to AL Dammam Central Hospital suffering from multiple fractures of his hand and acute pains in his back, reportedly as a result of torture.
24 Taysir Bager al-Nimr	22.8.89 al-Awamiyya	al-Dammam	He is single; 20-year-old entrepreneur from al-Awamiyya. He was arrested at his home at two o'clock in the morning. He is the brother of Ja'far Baqer al-Nimr arrested on 15.6.89 (see number 20 above)
25 Sayyid Ja far Sayyid Kamid al—Hashim	1.9.89 at al-Hudaitha check-point on the Saudi-Jordanian frontier	al-Dammam	He is married; 24-year-old student of religious studies from al-Awjam.

Appendix B. Names and details of 20 alleged members or sympathizers of Hizbullah fil Hijaz, Hizbullah in Hijaz, currently believed to be held in Riyadh and al-Ihsa'

	Name	Date & Place of Arrest	Current Place of Detention	Other Information
1	Sayyid Najib Majid Sayyid al-Hashim	22.4.88 al-Rabi'iyya	Riyadh	He is single; 21-year-old student from al-Rabi'iyya.
2	Muhammad al-Jirani	18.4.88 al-Rabi'iyya	Riyadh	He is married; 23 years old and is a student of religious studies
3	Muhammad Hillal Qassem al-Seud	20.4.88 Saihat	Riyadh	He is married; 27 years old from Saihat. Prior to his arrest he worked as an engineer for Sa'udi ARAMCO.
4	Fawzi 'Abdullah al-Yusuf	20.4.88 Saihat	Riyadh	He is married; 32 years old from Saihat. He was an engineer at Sa'udi ARAMCO.
5	Ja'far Jasim al-Hamad	20.4.88 Saihat	Riyadh	He is married; 26 year-old student from Saihat.
6	Mustafa 'Ali al-Khatam	20.4.88 Saihat	Riyadh	He is married; 26 years old from Saihat. He worked in an ironmongery owned by his father.
7	'Abdul-Karim Hamud	20.4.88 at his work in Sa'udi ARAMCO in Dhahran	Riyadh	He is married; 28-year—old engineer from Saihat. He worked for Sa'udi ARAMCO
8	Sheikh 'Abdul-Karim al-Hubail	21.4.88 al-Rabi'iyya	Riyadh	He is married and is a prominent 31-year old religious scholar in the Shi'a community.
9	Sheikh Ja'far 'Ali al'Mubarak	21.4.88 Safwa	Riyadh	He is married; 30-year-old religious scholar from Safwa. He is considered to be a leading figure in the Hizbullah. He had previously been detained without charge or trial in 1985 and released in 1987 following a general amnesty.
10	'Ali Khalil al-Sayigh	21.4.88 Senabes	Riyadh	He is married; 31 years old from Senabes. He was an employee of Sa'udi ARAMCO.
11	Hussein 'Abdullah al-Hay	21.4.88 Safwa	Riyadh	He is married; 31 years old from Safwa. He worked for Sa'udi ARAMCO.
12	'Ali Sa'id Darwish	21.4.88 al-Rabbi'iyya	Riyadh	He is married; a 30-year-old engineer from al-Rabi'iyya. He worked for Sa'udi ARAMCO.
13	Fathi Hussein al-Habib	22.4.88 Safwa	Riyadh	He is married; 26 years old from Safwa. He was an engineer at Sa'udi ARAMCO.
14	Nasser 'Abdullah al-Yusuf	25.4.88 Saihat	Riyadh	He is married; 26 years old from Safwa. He was a government employee working for the Ministry of Education. He had previously been detained without charge or trial in 1985 while a student at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh and was released at the end of 1986.
15	Sheikh 'Abdul-Latif Hussein al-Nasser	17.8.88 al-Dammam	Riyadh	He is married; a 27-year-old religious scholar from al-Dammam.
16	Sheikh 'Abdullah Muhammad al-Nimr	17.8.88 al-Dammam	Riyadh	He is married; a 30-year-old religious scholar from al-Dammam.
17	Sayyid 'Adnan Sayyid Muhammad al-Yusuf	Beginning of July 1989 al-Ihsa'	al-Ihsa'	He is married; 27 years old from al-Ihsa'. He was previously arrested on two separate occasions and held without charge or trial; 1982-December 1983 and 1986-1987. Prior to his last arrest, he was living in exile in Damascus and is reported to have returned to the country after receiving assurances from the Sa'udi embassy as to his safety.
18	Hussein Mansur 'Abbas	5.10.89 Saihat	al-Dammam	He is married; 29 -year-old employee of Saudi Electricity Company from Saihat. He was previously detained for several days in 1982.
19	Sayyid Yasin al-Sayigh	5.10.89 at his house in al-Qatif	al-Dammam	He is married and father to one child. He is a 27-year-old religious scholar.
20	Sheikh Ibrahim al-Battat	First week of October 1989 al—Ihsa'	al-Dammam	He is married; 48-year-old religious scholar from al-Ihsa'

APPENDIX C: Names and details of 5 alleged members or sympathizers of Hizbul ‘Amal al-Ishtirak al-Jazira al-Arabiyya. The Arab Socialist Action Party - The Arabian Peninsula, currently believed to be held in al-Dammam

	Name	Date & Place of Arrest	Current Place of Detention	Other Information
1	‘Adil Salman ‘Abdul-Hadi	25.3.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married, 32 years old from Safwa. He was an employee of the ‘Iqari bank.
2	Muhammad Habib al-Yusuf	25.3.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married; 31-year-old employee of al-Zamil Company from Safwa.
3	Muhammad Hassan Nabi	25.3.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married; 26-year-old employee of Sa’udi ARAMCO from Safwa.
4	Hassan Jasim Daoud	27.3.89 Safwa	al-Dammam	He is married; 28-year-old employee of Sa’udi ARAMCO from Safwa.
5	‘Abdullah al-Jaser	27.3.89 Riyadh	al-Dammam	He is married; 39-year-old employee of Saudi ARAMCO from Safwa.

APPENDIX D: Names and details of 16 suspected political opponents not known to belong to any organization, currently believed to be held in Riyadh, al-Dammam and al-Ihsa'

	Name	Date & Place of Arrest	Current Place of Detention	Other Information
1	'Abdul-Aziz al-Faris	17.6.89 at King Khaled University Hospital in Riyadh	Riyadh	He is single; 23-year-old student at Sa'ud University in Riyadh. He was arrested together with other Shi'a students (see below nos 2-5) after fire broke out at the Students Residence on 15 and 16 June. In July, Amnesty International issued urgent appeals on behalf of three of them (Nos 1-3) following reports that they were being tortured to force them to confess to having started the fires.
2	'Ali al-Lail	17.6.89 at King Khaled University Hospital in Riyadh	Riyadh	He is single; 22-year-old student at Sa'ud University in Riyadh. See number one above.
3	Salah Nisfan	19.6.89 at the students' residence at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh	Riyadh	He is single; 20-year-old student at Sa'ud University in Riyadh. See number one above.
4	Hussein Subait	19.6.89 at the students' residence at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh	Riyadh	He is single; 22-year-old student at Sa'ud University in Riyadh. See number one above.
5	Hatim al-Saddiq	19.6.89 at the students' residence at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh	Riyadh	He is single; 22-year-old student at Sa'ud University in Riyadh. See number one above.
6	Muhammad Sa'ud bin Humdha	10.7.89 Mecca	al-Ihsa'	He is married; 28-year-old student of religious studies. He was arrested in Mecca while performing Haj (holy pilgrimage) rites on the day a bomb attack took place in the city. He was previously arrested in 1986 and released in 1987 without being charged or tried.
7	Sa'ud Ahmad al-Shrufna	11.7.89 al Qatif	al-Dammam	He is married; 22-year-old student of religious studies.
8	Jassim 'Abdul-Razaq	26.7.89 at Hudaitha check point on the Sa'udi-Jordanian frontier	al-Dammam	He is married; 28-year-old employee at King Fahd University in Dhahran.
9	'Abdul-Hamid Abdullah 'Abbas	1.8.89 Madina al-Muawara	Unknown	He is married; 29-year-old entrepreneur from Madina al-Munawara.
10	Ahmad Hassan al-Mutawa	10.8.89 al-Ihsa'	al-Dammam	He is married; 35-year-old lecturer at King Fahd University in Dhahran.
11	Sa'ud Ja'far al-Aqal	21.8.89 al-Dammam	al-Dammam	He is married; 20-year-old traffic policeman from Jubail. He was arrested at his workplace.
12	'Ali Ahmad al-Ma'atiq	22.8.89 Taroot	al-Dammam	He is single; 21-year-old secondary school student.
13	Jalal Mansur Sa'id al-Saffar	September 1989 on King Fahd bridge which links Sa'udi Arabia to Bahrain	al-Dammam	He is single; 19-year-old student. He was studying at an English language school in Houston - Texas, USA He was arrested upon returning to Sa'udi Arabia for a family visit.

14	Hussein Nisfan	September 1989 on King Fahd Bridge	al-Dammam	He is single; 22-year-old student of religious studies.
15	Taysir al-Ghurab	25.9.89 al-Qatif	al-Dammam	He is single; 22-year-old student. He was arrested with his brother Fathi (No. 16 below)
16	Fathi al-Ghurab	25.9.89 al-Qatif	al-Dammam	He is single; 23-year-old student.