

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/007/2008
28 February 2008

Further Information on UA 299/06 (AI Index: MDE 23/003/2006, 09 November 2006) and follow-ups (MDE 23/005/2006, 23 November 2006; MDE 23/003/2007, 26 January 2007; MDE 23/006/2007, 01 February 2007; MDE 23/015/2007, 17 April 2007; MDE 23/004/2008, 31 January 2008) - Fear of Imminent Execution /Prison Conditions/Medical Concern

SAUDI ARABIA Hadi Sa'eed Al-Muteef (m), Saudi Arabian national, aged 31
Suliamon Olyfemi (m), Nigerian national, aged about 28
Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa (f), Indonesian national
Ahmed al-Bahrani (m), Saudi Arabian national
An unknown number of others under sentence of death

Ahmed al-Bahraini was reportedly pardoned by the family of the victim on 26 February, minutes before he was due to be executed.

According to Saudi Arabian press reports Ahmed al-Bahraini was taken to the execution square shackled and blindfolded but was pardoned in return for 500,000 Saudi Arabian Riyals (US\$135,000) as *diya* (financial compensation) and a three-year prison term.

Ahmad al-Bahrani was sentenced to death for murder and in 2006 was reportedly pardoned by relatives of the murder victim in exchange for payment of six million Riyals (US\$1.6 million) *diya*. However according to Saudi Arabian press reports he was unable to pay the first instalment of 3 million Riyals (US\$800,000) which was due by the end of October 2006 and was at risk of imminent execution.

There is no further news about others named above. They may be in even greater danger of execution, as the number of executions has risen sharply since the beginning of this year, with at least 30 people executed since 8 January.

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 Arabic, English or your own language:

- welcoming the news that Ahmed al-Bahrani is no longer at risk of execution;
- expressing concern that the number of executions in Saudi Arabia has risen sharply this year;
- expressing concern that Suliamon Olyfemi, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa and many others may be facing imminent execution, and calling for their executions to be halted immediately;
- appealing to the authorities to commute the death sentences passed on Suliamon Olyfemi and all of those on death row in Saudi Arabia as a matter of urgency, with a view to the abolition of the death penalty;

- asking what steps have been taken to enable Suliamon Olyfemi and others to exercise effectively the rights to seek judicial review and to seek a pardon.
- urging the authorities to ensure that international standards for fair trial are observed.

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

Fax (via Ministry of the Interior): + 966 1 403 1185
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
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Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Salutation: Your Royal Highness

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

and 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 10 April 2008.