

URGENT ACTION

DOMESTIC WORKER FACING EXECUTION

An Indonesian domestic worker is at imminent risk of execution in Saudi Arabia. She could be executed as early as 3 April if the victim's family does not receive the requested *diya* ("blood money") compensation by this date.

Satinah Binti Jumadi Ahmad, a 41-year-old Indonesian domestic worker, was sentenced to death in 2010 for the murder of her employer, a woman called Nura al-Garib, who was killed in the central Saudi Arabian province of al-Qassim, north of the capital, Riyadh, on 26 June 2007. Satinah Ahmad, a migrant worker from Central Java, confessed to killing Nura al-Garib but claimed she had done so in self-defence after months of physical and emotional abuse by her employer. She alleged that Nura al-Garib had attempted to smash her head into a wall when she struck the woman in the neck with a rolling pin and killed her. It had been reported that Satinah Ahmad had stolen 37,970 Saudi Arabian riyals (US\$10,120) from her employer and fled the house before she was arrested.

Nura al-Garib's family announced in July 2013 that they would grant Satinah Ahmad clemency for the murder if they received 7 million riyals (US\$1.9 million) *diya* (financial compensation or "blood money"). The family has reportedly refused to accept a 4 million riyals (US\$1.1 million) *diya* payment since offered by the Indonesian government.

Satinah Ahmad's execution was originally scheduled for August 2011 but has been postponed several times. The deadline for the *diya* to be paid to the family is 3 April 2014. If payment is not received by this date the execution will be carried out.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the King of Saudi Arabia to halt the execution of Satinah Binti Jumadi Ahmad and those of all other people under sentence of death in the country;
- Calling on him to commute her death sentence and those of all others in Saudi Arabia as a matter of urgency, with a view to abolishing the death penalty;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 APRIL 2014 TO:

King and Prime Minister

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 3125 (please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of the Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed
bin Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 3125 (keep trying)
Salutation: **Your Royal highness**

And copies to:

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Shaykh Dr Mohammed
bin Abdulkareem Al-Issa
Ministry of Justice
University Street
Riyadh 11137
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: + 966 1 401 1741/ +966 1 402 0311

Salutation: His Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia is one of the top executioners in the world: more than 2000 people were executed there between 1985 and 2013.

The death penalty is used disproportionately against foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia, particularly migrant workers from poor and developing countries in Africa and Asia. Reports indicate that in 2013, approximately half of all people executed were foreign nationals. In 2012 Amnesty International recorded the execution of at least 79 people, of whom 27 were foreign nationals. In 2011 at least 82 people were executed, including 28 foreign nationals, more than three times the previous year's figure of 27, which included five foreign nationals. In 2009, at least 69 people are known to have been executed overall, including 19 foreign nationals, and in 2008 at least 102, including 39 foreign nationals.

Court proceedings in Saudi Arabia fall far short of international standards for fair trial. Defendants are rarely allowed formal representation by lawyers, 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. Foreign nationals with no knowledge of Arabic – the language of pre-trial interrogation and trial hearings – are often denied adequate interpretation facilities.

Under the UN Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, there should be adequate opportunity for defence and appeal, and the imposition of the death penalty should be prohibited when there is room for alternative interpretation of the evidence.

In a report published in 2008 on the use of the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, Amnesty International highlighted the extensive use of the death penalty as well as the disproportionately high number of executions of foreign nationals from developing countries. For further information please see *Affront to Justice: Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia* (Index: MDE 23/027/2008), 14 October 2008: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/mde23/027/2008>

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristics of the offender, or the method used by the state to kill the prisoner.

Name: Satinah Binti Jumadi Ahmad

Gender m/f: f

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