

# URGENT ACTION

## HAJRAS AL-QUIREY DAYS AWAY FROM EXECUTION

**Hajras al-Qurey, a Saudi Arabian man sentenced to death for drug trafficking after an unfair trial, is now scheduled to be executed on Monday 25 August.**

**Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey** has been told by the local authorities in the Najran Governorate that he will be executed on Monday 25 August 2014.

Hajras al-Qurey was sentenced to death on 16 January 2013 by the General Court in Najran. The sentence was later upheld by both an appeal court and the Supreme Court. Hajras al-Qurey and his son Muhammad al-Qurey were arrested on 7 January 2012 at the al-Khadra border crossing with Yemen, when customs officers suspected them of carrying drugs in their car. According to the court documents, Hajras al-Qurey tried to drive away at high speed to escape from the border police, but they chased and caught him. According to his family, Hajras al-Qurey suffers from psychological problems and has been known to lose control of himself when under pressure.

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

- Urging the King to halt the execution of Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey and all other prisoners sentenced to death;
- Urging the authorities to grant Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey and his son Muhammad al-Qurey a retrial in accordance with international standards and without recourse to the death penalty;
- Calling on them to order without delay an impartial and independent investigation into the men's allegation that they were tortured and otherwise ill-treated;
- Reminding them that, pending full abolition, under international law, the death penalty may be imposed only after trials complying with the most rigorous internationally recognized standards for fair trial, in which all evidence obtained under torture or other-ill-treatment is inadmissible.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY 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 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)  
**Salutation: Your Majesty**

#### Minister of Justice

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin  
Abdulkareem Al-Issa  
Ministry of Justice  
University Street  
Riyadh 11137  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 11 401 1741,  
+966 11 402 0311  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### **And copies to:**

#### 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 11 403 3125 (please keep  
trying)

### **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. This is the first update of UA 201/14. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/018/2014/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 18 August, the Saudi Arabian authorities executed four members of one family for “receiving large quantity of hashish” in the city of Najran. The four men had been sentenced to death on the basis of forced confessions reportedly extracted under torture. So far in 2014, at least 36 people have been executed, including 19 in August alone. In 2013, Saudi Arabia executed at least 79 people, three of whom were under 18 at the time of the crimes for which they were put to death, in blatant violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Saudi Arabia is one of the top executioners in the world, with more than 2,000 people executed between 1985 and 2013.

Court proceedings in Saudi Arabia fall far short of international standards for fair trial. Trials in capital cases are often held in secret. 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. In some cases condemned prisoners’ families are not notified in advance of their execution.

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty to a wide range of offences that are not accepted as “most serious crimes” under international standards for applying the death penalty, as this is limited to crimes involving intentional killing. These include “adultery”, armed robbery, “apostasy”, drug smuggling, rape, “witchcraft” and “sorcery”. Some of these offences, such as “adultery” and “apostasy”, should not even be criminalized at all. At least one person has been executed for witchcraft and sorcery in 2014.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. It violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Name: Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 201/14 Index: MDE 23/o20/2014 Issue Date: 21 August 2014