



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

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OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

**ICSFT**

**Mr. president,**

ICSFT thanks the distinguished panel for their remarks. We echo General Assembly resolution of December 2007 and subsequent supporting reports and resolutions that urge States to adopt a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view towards its full abolition.

In this light, we would like to draw attention to an increase in executions across the Gulf region. Countries like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are amongst the top executioners, many after unfair trials and torture, the case of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr is a prime example for this. Since 2014, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has carried out 579 executions, placing it among the top 5 executors in the world. Most of the executions are carried out after unfair trials by courts that convicted them without adequately investigating allegations of coerced 'confessions,' including confessions obtained under torture.

In particular, executions in Saudi Arabia Have Doubled Under Crown Prince. Case in point is the extrajudicial execution of Jamal Khashoggi, Saudi Arabian journalist, a critic of Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman, at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

**Mr. president,**

ICSFT urges Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view towards abolition, and to ensure the protection and fair trial of persons facing the death penalty.

States need to ensure that abolition of the death penalty is a key part of its Middle East foreign goals. Of note, we urge states to speak out more often and more critically against torture and unfair trials in these countries especially when these abuses are leading to scores of people being beheaded in public squares every year.

As well we urge businesses and private companies to ensure that their operations do not contribute to the inhuman practice of the death penalty and act in accordance with their human rights responsibilities.

We would finally like to ask the panel: What measures can be taken by this Council to crack down on executions of individuals tortured to confess?

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