



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING
FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS**

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

SAUDI PLANS TO CONTINUE EXECUTION SPREE AFTER RAMADAN!



Salman al-Odah, Awad al-Qarni and Ali al-Omari, from right to left

Saudi Arabia is holding three scholars under the fake charge of “terrorism”, the usual scapegoat used by the regime to crush and terrorize dissent in to submission and maintain the status quo. It is being reported that their fate is going to be execution after the holy month of Ramadan. Sheikh Salman al-Awdah, described by UN experts as a "reformist", Awad al-Qarni, a preacher, academic and author, and Ali al-Omari, a popular broadcaster respectively. Saudi Arabia executed 37 men just last month securing the top executioners list. The three scholars are waiting for their trial date at the Criminal Special Court in the capital,

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Riyadh, following their arrest in September 2017. A hearing was set for 1 May, but was postponed without setting a further date.

The international community, in particular the UN, has condemned the regime's reckless use of counterterrorism and security-related laws against human rights defenders and rights groups to no avail. However despite scrutiny the regime has continued its practice of silencing, arbitrarily arresting, detaining and persecuting human rights defenders and critics.

The repression and persecution of civil society organizations and activists, including a crackdown on their operations has surpassed a worrying stage. We are alarmed by the arrests and arbitrary detentions of critics of the kingdom, including but not limited to, Loujain Al-Hathloul, Hatoon Al-Fassi, Aziza Al-Yousef, Eman Al-Nafjan, Nouf Abdelaziz, Samar Badawi, Nassima Al-Sadah, Waleed Abu al-Khair, Mohammed al-Qahtani, Abdullah al-Hamid, Fadhil al-Manasif, Sulaiman al-Rashoodi, Amal Al-Harbi, and Shadan Al-Anezi, who have been accused of being a threat to national security. In reality they are standing up for the right to expression, opinion, and justice.

Saudi courts have convicted at least 25 prominent activists and dissidents since 2011. Many faced sentences as long as 10 or 15 years and most faced broad, catch-all charges designed to criminalize peaceful dissent. And since 2014, Saudi authorities have tried nearly all peaceful dissidents in the Specialized Criminal Court, Saudi Arabia's terrorism tribunal.

Lynn Maalouf Middle East Research Director at Amnesty International stated, "The use of the death penalty is always appalling but it is even more shocking when it is applied after unfair trials or against people who were under 18 at the time of the crime, in flagrant violation of international law, Instead of stepping up executions at an alarming rate in the name of countering terrorism, Saudi Arabia's must halt this bloody execution spree immediately and establish an official



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moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty completely”.

Additionally Ali al-Nimr, Dawood al-Marhoon and Abdullah al-Zaher, from the Shi’a minority and who were below the age of 18 at the time of the crime, remain on death row and at imminent risk of execution.

Bizarre sentences against peaceful activists and dissidents prove Saudi Arabia’s complete intolerance toward citizens who speak out for human rights and reform.

ICSFT urges all relevant bodies to stand in unity against the persecution of dissidents like Salman al-Odah, Awad al-Qarni and Ali al-Omari who raise their voices for equality, and call for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.