



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

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H.E. Mr Faisal H. Trad
Ambassador for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Brussels

Strasbourg, March 13th, 2013

Excellency,

With reference to our letter sent to you on March 4th, 2013, and to your response of March 6th, 2013 - in which you informed us about the postponement of the execution of seven young men found guilty by the General Court of Abha in August 2009 for an armed robbery that had taken place in January 2006 when they all had been minors under the age of 18 years old - we learned in despair about the execution that had taken place today.

This came just a day after UN experts had urged Saudi authorities to halt the execution while Mr *Christof Heyns*, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, also expressed concern that these seven individuals were to be executed for crimes that cannot be considered as most serious crimes as well as about the way trials leading to death sentences had been conducted. Mr *Juan E. Mendéz*, as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, also expressed grave concerns about allegations that the seven individuals had been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in detention and had been forced to sign confessions.

The European Union holds a strong and principled position against death penalty, and its abolition is a key objective for our human rights policy, which position is fully supported by the European Parliament and the S&D Group.

In this context, we strongly condemn, on behalf of the S&D Group in the European Parliament, the execution of Mr. *Abdul Aziz bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-'Amri*, Mr. *Sa'id bin Hassan bin Ahmed al-'Amri*, Mr. *Sarhan bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mashayekh*, Mr. *Ali bin Hadi bin Sa'id al-Qahtani*, Mr. *Nasser bin Sa'id bin Sa'ad al-Qahtani*, Mr. *Sa'id bin Nasser bin Muhammad al-Shahrani*, and Mr. *Ali bin Muhammad bin Hazam al-Shihri*.

We also remind Saudi authorities of their obligations under international law to avoid any form of torture for the purpose of extracting confessions or acquiring information in a criminal judicial procedure and beyond.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

MEP Véronique De Keyser
Vice President

MEP Ana Maria Gomes
Foreign Affairs Coordinator

MEP María Muniz de Urquiza
AFET Member