

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SAUDI ARABIA- Addendum

CANADA

- Could the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provide more information on safeguards which are included in the Saudi judicial system to ensure:
 - that defendants and their legal counsel have an opportunity to present all evidence and arguments in a case?
 - that tribunals and courts follow prescribed procedures?
 - that defendants and their legal counsel have an opportunity, through cross-examination to question those who originate allegations?
 - the transparency of directives and decisions of Saudi tribunals and courts?
- Could the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia elaborate on how it ensures the right to adequate food and education for families when there are allegations that a father/husband does not provide or is unable to provide these?
- Could the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provide more information on how the interests of both parents are considered when Saudi citizens marry foreign nationals?
- Could the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia elaborate on measures taken to ensure that prisoners are released from detention on a timely basis when it is determined that no formal charge will be laid against them or when their sentence has been served?
- Could the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provide more information on measures taken to ensure that family members have non-discriminatory access to identity card renewal and basic social services when a husband/father has been imprisoned pending an investigation?

DENMARK

- Denmark has with concern noted the high, and for 2007 increasing, number of executions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) - especially executions of juveniles at the time of the offence. Which concrete measures does the Saudi Arabian Government plan to take in order to halt the executions of juveniles at the time of the offence? – Saudi Arabia being a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Corporal punishment, including amputation and flogging, is still practiced in Saudi Arabia. According to UNGA res. 63/166 op 6 (a) corporal punishment, including of children, can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or even torture. In 2005 the Special Rapporteur on torture asked for an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia. Apparently this request has not been met.

What steps are being taken to abolish corporal punishment? Will Saudi Arabia invite the Special Rapporteur to visit the country? When will Saudi Arabia ratify OPCAT and establish an independent and effective national preventive mechanism?

- Poor foreign migrant workers are reportedly victims of unfair trials behind closed doors, without lawyers to defend them and connections or economic means. Many of these cases result in death sentences and executions. Which concrete measures does the Saudi Arabian Government consider taking to improve the standard of the Rule of Law in this area and to prevent unfair trials as well as executions without a fair trial?
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has still not signed the two UN conventions: *the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and *the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. When does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia plan to sign these two conventions?

GERMANY

- Following the recommendations of CEDAW, what steps have been taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ensure prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence against women, including domestic violence, and which steps have been taken to give victims of violence access to immediate means of redress?

LITHUANIA

- Lithuania would like ask if there is enough awareness of women about their rights that are already provided in the legislation.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Would you elaborate further on the range and number of civil society organizations which were involved in the preparation of the Saudi Arabia's national report?
- Would you please elaborate on the existence and independence from government of a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris principles, in Saudi Arabia?
- We agree that the judicial and legal reforms undertaken since 1991 have been important developments in promoting respect for human rights in Saudi Arabia. Do you consider that all of the reforms and codes of legal procedure have been implemented?
- Concerns have been raised about the delays in the judicial system which means that cases can take years to be tried. This affects the human rights of those detained without trial and makes the presentation of evidence more

difficult and generally erodes public confidence in the justice system. What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to tackle this problem?

- We would be grateful for information about how Saudi Arabia is promoting the equality of men and women through, in particular, the implementation of Article 2 of CEDAW.
- In line with The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, HM King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz's call for religious dialogue, would you please tell us what steps are being taken to allow the free practice of religion in Saudi Arabia both for religious minority groups and foreign workers?
- Would you please explain the advantages of the current sponsorship system for foreign workers, in comparison to the sort of changes that have been recommended by the National Society of Human Rights amongst others?
- On 24 November 2008, the Shura Council approved an amendment which set the age of adulthood as 18. Would you please confirm when the Council of Ministers will ratify this decision and whether this will ensure that no one under the age of 18 is tried as an adult in a criminal court?
