The War on Terror or
the War on Freedom?

A report on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's 'War on Terror' and the decline of human rights.

ALQST
القسط
لدعم حقوق الانسان
Advocating for Human Rights

ALQST, is an independent non-governmental organisation that advocates for human rights. We monitor and document human rights violations that occur in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the hands of authority figures.

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A Message

To the Saudi People:

Remain peaceful and seek your rights by all legitimate means and do not let oppression lead you to abandon your demands. Life is worthless without freedom.

Do not believe all government accusations, as without free press and an independent civil society, reality is not clear. Refrain from accusing someone of terrorism because of a government statement. Do not denounce your sons and do not be afraid when you have done nothing wrong.Do not despair or surrender to fear, submission, violence and extremism. This is what the authorities' oppressions aims to achieve.

To Human Rights Organizations:

Trust that there are people inside of the Kingdom who hear your voice and appreciate your efforts. Do not get tired or stop defending these victims, they merely cannot reach out to you to thank you because if they do, they will be committing an act of terrorism.

To the Saudi Authorities:

The War on Terror does not mean a war on your own people or their freedom and dignity. Trust that you won't be able to silence the voice of the people by using an iron fist or by falsifying accusations against the innocent. Fight terrorism by spreading tolerance, justice, freedom and dignity. Allow your people to choose who represents them; to know where their wealth is going, and how their country is being run. Allow your people to breathe and to voice their opinions in safety and without fearing your oppression, so they too can help eliminate terrorism.

To Countries in alliance with the Saudi authorities:

Look at people as equal humans regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or language. Oil and arms sales do not excuse your silence on human rights violations; it merely shows your support for its perpetrators.

To those wrongly accused of terrorism:

Do not resort to violence under any circumstance. Raise your voice loudlybut peacefully. Do not become a victim of battles waged by others who use the weak as its fuel. State your demands clearly and eliminate any doubt of your peaceful aims.

To those who committed violence:

Do not continue on your mistaken path. Just because the authorities have oppressed you, you should not legitimize their oppression by using violence.

Introduction

According to Human Rights organisations and activists, there are at present, 30,000 political prisoners in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, according to the Saudi Ministry of Interior's website, there are only 3,300 such political prisoners. The majority of these prisoners are being held on terrorist related charges.

The Saudi authorities are currently seeking to build new prisons to deal with the overcrowding of inmates and this is supported by photos leaked from inside of prisons and statements from individuals who have recently been released from prison.

One such individual, a human rights activist, counted 500 prisoners in one chamber that had only been designed to hold 100 inmates. Leaked photos show painful overcrowding where prisoners sleep in corridors and inside bathrooms.This is a clear indication that the data provided by the Saudi authorities is not realistic.

No one knows the real number of political prisoners because firstly, the Saudi authorities have blocked access to international human right originations and independent media to prisoners. Secondly, there is an unusual absence of independent human rights organization inside Saudi Arabia. This prevents them for ascertaining the real numbers of political prisoners. Thirdly, the Saudi authorities refuse to provide accurate and acceptable data on the political prisoners and the conditions of their confinement.

On the 1st of February 2014, the Saudi authorities brought into force its Anti-Terrorism law. (Appendix A). On the 2ndof February 2014, a Royal Decree was issued in relation to terrorist activities (Appendix B), followed by a statement by the Ministry of the Interior naming several groups as terrorist organisations. (Appendix C)

As part of the Kingdoms so-called War on Terror, the authorities have continued to launch mass arrests and arbitrary raids without legal grounds during which the rights of its citizens have continuously been violated. The Saudi authorities maintain a perpetual state of emergency with checkpoints all around the country and cement barriers surrounding government building, media outlets, military housing and bases, and even hotels.The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia bans all forms of public representation of society as there is no Parliament or political parties. There are no unions or tribal councils, no civil society organizations and no media outlets that are completely independent of the Saudi authorities.

All that is taking place in Saudi Arabia is either a part of the authorities or is under its watchful eye. Saudi citizens are not allowed to express their opinions let alone oppose, protest or express resentment towards the authorities. Demonstrations, petitions, peaceful protests, sit-ins, strikes and communication with foreign organizations and international media are now considered punishable crimes under the new Anti-Terrorism laws. They are classified as terrorist related crimes.

In addition to this, members of the Supreme Council of Scholars, who are appointed, as well as dismissed, by the King and his advisors (and therefore under the authorities control), have also issued fatwas, or religious rulings, against such activities. These fatwas are issued alongside human rights values such as freedom, justice and equality and are deemed to be Western values that antagonise Islamic teachings and therefore Muslims. The Supreme Council Scholars believe that the Muslim community should not apply or demand these values from their leaders.

On numerous occasions, the authorities have used religion, security and the media to incriminate all peaceful activities. They have even gone as far to accuse individuals of terrorist related activities based on their intentions. A statement released last February by the Ministry of Interior, criminalises the act of sympathising with such organisations or groups. The act of sympathising is, in itself, near impossible for the authorities to know about, making their statement invalid. Expressing affiliations with them as well as attending meetings with such organisations or groups is also to be considered terrorist based crimes.

Alongside such unethical statements, schooling curriculum, newspaper articles and Friday sermons also promotes the idea that the only way for change within the Kingdom is to carry arms and force the opposing side to submit to the authority.

For citizens of Saudi who have not travelled outside of the Kingdom, they simply cannot differentiate between a state of stability and a state of emergency. Whilst those who have travelled outside of the Kingdom are able to clearly see that their country is in a state of emergency. Moreover, they can see that the country is in a state of war, which the authorities have dubbed “The War on Terror.”

This report was written with the aim of clearly understanding the new Anti-Terrorism law that came into effect in 2014 in Saudi Arabia and its impact on fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. This shall be done by using examples of how the new law has impacted several human rights activists and reformists.

The establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A brief history

The emergence of the Al Saud dynasty stretches as far back as 1744. A tribal leader called Muhammad ibn Saud joined forces with the religious leader and founder of the Wahhabi movement, a form of Islam that some consider being radical. This alliance between the two leaders provided ideological incentives and still remains the basis of Saudi rule today.

From 1744 to 1932, Saudi Arabia saw many rulers come and go but in 1902, Abdul-Aziz bin Saud, leader of the Al Saud had returned from exile which ultimately led to the modern creation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. After the separation of the Ottoman Empire, Britain shifted their support to the Al Saud dynasty, and in 1927, the Treaty of Jeddah was formally accepted by the British which recognised Al Saud's rule over modern Saudi Arabia.

Modern Saudi Arabia was initially divided into three States, all of which were founded in the same manner - by fighting existing local governments, using violence to unsettle them as well as waging wars against them until they were defeated and the State was under new rule.

Regardless of the specific political, religious and tribal alliances and differences that existed at the time, the focal point is how these differences were used to justify the use of violence as a means to force change within society, to force ones views on another by violent means and then to consider this as a legitimate act, serves as an example to others in modern day.

This belief, that violence is acceptable and appropriate to force change, is not to cast a negative light on the Kingdom, but to the contrary, as it is a part of the Saudi authorities' deep rooted mentality. It is taught in school books, it is what leaders proudly proclaim in private as well as in public forums, and especially comes to light on the Kingdoms National Day. It is also what the Supreme Council of Scholars, the official religious establishment in Saudi Arabia, considers to be the legitimate means to force change. It adds that anyone who is able to take over and force people under its authority is in fact a legitimate ruler that must be obeyed. They further go on to claim that no one is allowed to challenge the ruler's authority until either his demise, he abdicates willingly or is replaced by another powerful ruler who overtakes or kills him and his supporters, or enforces his authority by violent means to become the new legitimate ruler.

Historically, the Saudi authorities helped recruit Saudi youths to fight in Afghanistan during the Cold War. This supported the USA's efforts to expel the USSR. Saudi youths were invited to join a Holy War (Jihad) and to support the Afghani people. The Saudi authorities, along with its allies, paved the road for youths to fight in Afghanistan. Upon their return, these youths were labelled as terrorists; some were imprisoned while others remained under State surveillance, which had the effect of driving many to re-join armed militia outside the country. Most of these youths were tortured, harassed, and suffered inside Saudi prisons.

In several recorded testimonies, youths that were involved in peaceful demonstrations were encouraged to participate in armed-conflicts outside of Saudi Arabia. For instance, a Buraida-based judge, Judge Ibrahim Al-Hasani, told youths brought to trial for protesting that it was better for them to go to Syria and fight there in the recent 2012 conflict.

Thus, the Saudi authorities' actions indicate that forming and training an armed group and supplying them with weapons to gain power and change the status quo is in fact, an acceptable model that shouldn't be seen as terrorism. In fact, they indicate that it is the ideal way to achieve change, participate in the country's affairs, and express opinions.

The Saudi authority has not denounced these beliefs; it takes pride in being able to rely on force as its source of legitimacy.

The Anti-Terrorism Law February 2014

While the Saudi authorities promote the legitimacy of the Saudi political system, established initially through violence, they are also attempting to utilize all measures that are at their disposal to criminalise peaceful dissent within its territories. Its political system is also highly undemocratic as there is no elected Parliament. There are also no independent tribal councils or municipal councils with any meaningful powers. There are no legally recognised independent civil society organisations nor political parties, trade unions and no means by which its citizens can communicate with its government, expect for the so-called 'open-doors' policy, which in practice does not function as it is meant to in theory.

A number of Saudi academics, reformists and other key figures in society have nonetheless called for reforms relating to greater political and administrative participation, genuine accountability of State institutions, independent investigations into allegations of corruption, a more appropriate management of the country's economic resources, effective policies to fight poverty, an end to arbitrary detentions as well as greater respect for women's rights. These demands were expressed in public petitions and open letters that were signed and delivered to the Saudi authorities.

One key document, written in March 2011 that was supported by a wide national consensus of key figures in Saudi Arabia was called "A Country of Institutions and Rights" which presented the Saudi authorities with a number of peaceful solutions which would grant citizens some proportion of rights. They also suggested reforms to the judiciary to give it more independence but also addressed issues such as unemployment, social housing, granting freedom of expression as well as the release of prisoners of conscience and other detainees held without trial and ensuring that the police and State security personnel's respect and apply legal procedures correctly.

Though the document did not call for the full participation of Saudi society in the political process, and many opposition figures considered it insufficient and tantamount, the document did present legitimate demands that the State could have implemented without any serious conflict.

Instead, reforms were hit by a draft Anti-Terrorism Law that was leaked in August 2011. It effectively killed the hopes of Saudi reformists. Several human rights organisations responded to the Draft Bill by calling on the Saudi authorities to reconsider enacting the proposed law. Those calls were largely ignored. They did however; react with a few statements in response to Amnesty International's outcry at the new Anti-Terrorism Law. The Saudi Embassy in London stated that the Kingdom expressed extreme dismay with Amnesty International and declared the organisation's aim was to defame the Kingdom. The ambassador further went on to claim that Amnesty International's claims of concern were based on false assumptions that the law will be used against peaceful dissidents and not terrorists, which he claimed to be untrue. The full response can be found in Appendix D

Once the new Anti-Terrorism Law came into force in February 2014, the signing of public petitions - such as those used to call for reform and greater respect for human rights - were criminalized.

The Saudi authorities, as it stands at present, define acts of terrorism to include all actions that oppose or challenge current policies. This is reflected in its Anti-Terrorism Laws, the Royal Order and statements issued by the Ministry of Interior.

Article 1 (a) of the Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing, issued on February 2014, defines an act of terrorism as:

> "An act committed by an offender in furtherance of a criminal enterprise, whether individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, which is intended to disturb public order, or undermine the security of society and the stability of the State or which endangers national unity, the Constitution (Basic Law)or any part thereof, or which defames the State or its position, or causes damage to a State facility or natural resource, or which attempts to compel an officer or employee to take action or refrain from taking action within the scope of his duties due to threats."

According to this definition, anyone who insults the reputation of the State has committed a terrorist act as it can have the effect of slandering national unity. Therefore discussing human rights violations with international organisations and international media is considered defamation to the State's reputation and its position. Many activists including human rights activists have been convicted of terrorist based activities on this Article in the law alone.

This Article has further been understood to mean that by attempting to force the authorities to change laws and policies through hunger strikes, demonstrations, sit-ins or protests can be considered as terrorist related activities. The Saudi authorities have taken a strong stance against any peaceful pressure by civil society who aims to prevent violations and to push them to respect fundamental human rights. The most recent example was on December 25th 2014, when the Al-Ahsaa Criminal Court refused to look at a case against two women accused of driving and refereed the case to the Specialized Criminal Court because the judge deemed the case to be related to terrorist activities.[1]

Article 8 of the Ministry of Interior's statement also declared that the calling for, participation in, or promoting of, any public petitions were an act of terrorism. Sit-ins, protests, public gatherings and all other forms of peaceful dissent were similarly criminalised. The authorities have also outlawed the promotion of atheism and defined it as an act of terrorism, as well as affiliation to any outlawed party, organization, group or individual inside or outside the Kingdom.

[1] Lujain Al Huthlul and Maysa Al Amodi

The passing of this new law followed a wave of arrests of the most notable signatories to the petition who were they forced to pledge their allegiance to the Kingdom. Some were summoned to local police departments, general investigation departments and the Prosecution Bureau. Another group of signatories were summoned to the Crown Prince (Salman bin AbdulAzizi, whos now become the King) himself where they were humiliated and threatened to be exiled. This forced their hands to also make a pledge of allegiance to the Kingdom. Many activists were tried for alleged breaches of the new Anti-Terrorism Law, and others were accused of other vague charges to punish them for their peaceful expression of dissent. Some were even tried in the Specialised Criminal Court (which was set up in 2008, to be used only for terrorism cases).

Examples of War on Freedom

(Peaceful Dissent)

In April 2014, the renowned human rights defender, Waleed Abulkhair, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison by the Specialised Criminal Court. He was the first human rights activist to be tried under the new Anti-Terrorism Law. The charges he was convicted of include communicating with international media and human rights organizations about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, as well as establishing an NGO inside the Kingdom, Monitor for Human Rights in Saudi Arabia (MHRSA).

Waleed Abulkhair

Several prominent reformers have been tried for demonstrating in support of reforms, establishing human rights organizations, signing petitions and open letters, or demanding a constitution. In the trial of the Jeddah reformists in November 2012, Dr. Saud Al-Hashmi was sentenced to thirty years in prison followed by an equal duration of travel ban for planning a multi-partisan coalition for political and reform activities.

Dr. Saud Al-Hashmi

In the trials of the Society of Civil and Political Rights (ACPRA), that has been ongoing for many years and is still continuing, several members were sentenced to lengthy prison terms, including an 80 year old ex-lawyer and former judge, Suleiman Alrushoodi, who received 15 years in prison in November 2012. Others, including people who are not even members of the organization are still awaiting trial and sentencing, while those who have served their sentences are often then subjected to new trials in which they are sentenced to further terms of imprisonment, as in the case of the re-trials of the two members of ACPRA, Dr. Abdulkareem Alkhedr and Mohammad Albjadi.

Mohammad Albjadi

Dr. Abdulkareem Alkhedr

Acquaintances of ACPRA have also been subjected to interrogation by the authorities for promoting a human rights agenda.

Royal pardons were revoked in the case of Eissa Al-Nukhaifi, who was sentenced to an additional three years and eight months after serving two years of his prison term. He was previously pardoned from serving a six year prison term, making his total current sentence nine years and eight months, of which he has served just over two years. This was the result of a report by the rehabilitation advisory committee on Al-Nukhaifi, which claimed that he had not repented for his crime of calling for a constitutional monarchy.

Eissa Al-Nukhaifi

These are just a few examples of the authorities' on-going crackdown on dissents, their 'War on Freedom', their use of the 'War on Terror' and associated legislation to target peaceful activists and civil society organizations.

All this has been allowed to take place, despite the fact that the Saudi authorities have passed laws as well as being obligated by international treaties that it has ratified[2] to allow such peaceful acts and public gatherings.

[2] Peaceful gathering and formation of groups and peaceful organizations are guaranteed rights which should not be violated according to Article 20 of the UDHR. It states that "everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association." It is also stated in Article 24 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

Violence and Freedom of Takfeer

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right. It is contained in numerous international and regional Statutes. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that:

> "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Similarly, the International Covenant for Civil Political Rights (ICCPR), which is considered to be the international basis for legalising this right. It is understood at Article 19, to mean that everyone is allowed to hold an opinion without interference or the fear of interference. This right includes seeking, receiving and sharing information and ideas of any kind without any barriers and in any form including the media. However, duties and responsibilities are attached to this right and therefore has restriction. These restrictions can only be applied by law and when it is deemed necessary. It includes respecting the rights and reputation of others, and for the protection of national security and public order, health and morals[3].

Even though the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not yet signed or ratified the ICCPR, this Article sets international standards for freedom of speech within a legal frame work. It is therefore a fundamental freedom for a person to believe in what they want to and express their opinion the way they want to without deeming it a crime, so long as it does not harm another member of society, impact on national security, public order, health or morals.

These differences in opinions can range widely from extremist beliefs or opinions, though not believing or calling for violence and bombings, to opinions shared by the authorities, both intellectually and ideological, but believe, call or use violence to express their opinions. But if an individual uses violence to express themselves, be it the same opinions shared by the State or not, it does not mean that the ideology that they hold is violent, it means that the person who holds that ideology has used violent methods to express their opinion.

[3] 1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference. 2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice. 3. The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:(a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (order public), or of public health or morals.

Unfortunately, the Saudi authorities have linked the acts of peaceful expression to the use of violence, and have also removed any distinction between the two examples above. Anyone that opposes the legitimacy of the State and its policies, be it partially or calls the Saudi authorities un-Islamic, illegitimate, incapable, or questioning its Islamic credential and beliefs face severe repression. Typically, they may then face lengthy prison sentences, torture while in state custody, defamation campaigns in the state-owned media,

accusations of apostasy by the religious authorities, and harassment.
The authorities denounce such individuals and groups as 'the deviant groups', while the Supreme Council of Scholars have named them 'khawarj'. National media, controlled by the authority, use these two labels to tarnish the reputation of these peaceful oppositions. This makes it very difficult for ordinary citizens to distinguish between extremism and violence, and with an ideology that may or may not be extreme and violent to begin with.

The Saudi authorities have arrested a large number of people who do not believe in the legitimacy of the Saudi authorities, or see it as un-Islamic. Prisons are packed with people who have been sentenced to prison for their opinions and have been subjected to ideological rehabilitation, or forced to remain in prison until they 'repent'.

In one well-known case, prisoner Waleed Al-Senani has been sentenced to life imprisonment until he agrees to withdraw his takfeer[4] of the Kingdom and reclaim its legitimacy. He has already spent 20 years in prison and will remain there until he renounces his beliefs. This is a common example of how the Saudi authorities force its citizens to adhere to its ideology and belief system.

What should also be noted is that a Takfeer is also freedom of expression yet should not be associated with violence. The Saudi authorities and its Supreme Council of Scholars can declare takfeer freely, without any limitations and routinely use the statement "takfeer and violence". They also launched a campaign based on the same subject matter that consists of lectures, Friday prayer sermons, newspaper columns, television programs as well as other activities that links violence with extremist ideologies.

[4]Takfeer refers to the practice of one Muslim declaring that another Muslim is a non-believer or an apostate or kafeer.

Conclusion

The Saudi authorities have effectively closed the doors on peaceful dissidents completely, and raised the costs for demanding peaceful change, starting a political party, or participating in public demands, to many years in prison, torture, and a complete confrontation with the authorities. This is turn indirectly encourages the use of violence as a means of affecting political change.

At the same time, the Supreme Council of Scholars and the state-controlled media have also assisted in prohibiting these forms of peaceful dissent, thus participating in defaming and demonizing dissidents, while exalting the State approach and policies, claiming that the absolute power of the rulers is well deserved even if acquired by the use of arms, force, and coercion.

In light of these crackdowns and the undemocratic nature of the Saudi political system, citizens have no means by which they can participate in political decision-making. They also have no access to legal redress or effective means to tackle issues such as poverty, unemployment, and corruption. Some people fail to find jobs or engage in free business, are followed by state-agents, subjected to arbitrary arrests and investigations, and tortured in prison. The animosity and aggression by the authorities on these individuals feeds into them resorting to violence.

This is also true with regard to those who disagree with the Saudi authorities' interpretation of Islam, or those seeking legal redress from a member of the royal family or an influential person who has violated their rights. Or even an unemployed youth, an impoverished individual, or a young woman who can't escape the injustice and restrictions of the state-enforced guardianship system. When these people are overwhelmed by the lack of hope and despair, they may seek asylum in a country known for respecting human rights. Often, they find out that asylum is a difficult process influenced by the political interests of allied countries. This leaves Saudi citizens feeling marginalized and without any sense of citizenship. Some have even gone as far as saying that they feel like a foreigner in their own country.

ALQST strongly believes and supports the Saudi authorities' right to fight against terrorism and violence to maintain the safety and security of its citizens. However, we also strongly believe and stress that maintaining State security does not permit violations of human rights; it does not permit or allow for justification for indiscriminate killings, campaigns of mass arrests of innocent individuals, harassment of suspects including malicious complaints, humiliations. Torture is also strictly forbidden even for those proved to have committed a criminal offence.

The Saudi authorities have time and time again failed to provide any legal or moral justification to the permissibility for the loss of the right to life. Individuals that are connected to acts of terrorism should not be targeted for killings on the streets of Saudi Arabia. All attempts should be made to arrest the individual first and only if they are an immediate risk to the life of others. Government statements have also been released stating that individuals have been targeted killed based on their opinions and not their actions. These individuals do not pose any imminent threat to society. Targeted killings do not aim at neutralising, containing or incarcerating individuals but aim at eliminating them completely.

We also reiterate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the State practice of torture is forbidden under international law. The guidelines for this are very clear and contained in international treaties and the Conventional against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treating or Punishment (CAT). Any information gathered through the use of torture is inadmissible in any reputable court of law.

The Saudi authorities are also responsible for the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all its prisoners. The authorities have used methods of torture not only to obtain confessions but also to seek revenge. In the case of Abdul Aziz Al Tuilai, a former Al-Qaeda activist, the Saudi authorities failed to do so. Upon arrest, Al Tuilai faced severe torture at the hands of the Saudi authorities. His jaw was broken on his way to prison by police officers and was severely tortured psychologically to the extent that the effects of this torture were made permanent upon Al Tuilai. He was also tried unfairly at court as he could not represent himself due to his mental status. He was sentenced to death.

At his trial, Dr. Al Saud Hashmi, informed the Judge that the confession was given under duress as he was being tortured and it was not true. The Judge not only ignored him but also sentenced him to 30 years in prison; his crime was simply forming a group of people

Dr. Saud Al-Hashmi

asking for reform.

By banning independent NGO's and international human rights organisations, combined with the lack of transparency, makes the word of the Saudi authorities difficult to trust. There is no way for anyone to ascertain whether those arrested and tried on terrorism related charges are in fact terrorists or political activists. But it has become very clear after the Anti-Terrorism Law came into force, leading to many high profile activists being tried on terrorism based charges, that the authorities are merely trying to suppress any opposition. We find it very hard to believe that individuals, who are not only well known within the Kingdom but also internationally such as Waleed Abu Al Khair and Lujain Al Hathlool, are terrorists.

What concerns us is not the well-known activists that the authorities are suppressing, but those less known activists. Many face the death penalty or lengthy prison terms. Are they really terrorists or just oppositions?

The new Anti-Terrorism Law combined with the Royal Decree and the Ministry of Interior statements make it very clear that the War on Terror is not a war against individuals who use weapons and violence with radical ideologies to justify the killing of innocent civilians; it is a war on freedoms, fundamental freedoms.

Before these new laws came into force, the Saudi authorities established the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC) which focuses on terror related trials. Unfortunately, this new court has been used to hear cases of activists. Article 23[5] of the Anti-Terrorism Law states that the Minister of Interior has the right to try individuals in the SCC. This means that there is no separation of powers within the Kingdom.

Article 24[6] also states that the Minister of Interior has the right to release a prisoner at any point before or after sentencing. This further weakens the role of the Court. It is evident from these two Articles alone that the role of the Interior Minister is wider and more powerful than that of the Courts.

Unfortunately for the citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the authorities have gone forward with their War on Terror without any regard to human rights. They have used the War on Terror as an excuse to prevent individuals opposing the regime by silencing them. The above report demonstrates that the authorities do not distinguish between terrorists and human rights activists. For the authorities, terrorists are those that oppose their opinions and ideology. They cease to be a terrorist once they repent for their opinions and convert to the views of the authorities.

[5] Article 23: Without prejudice to civil right, the Minister of Interior may state prosecution against any person who reports a crime provided for in this Law, prior to or after its commission, and cooperates with the competent authorities during the investigation for the purpose of apprehending the remaining perpetrators of said crime or of another crime similar in kind and gravity, or leads the authorities to wanted persons or persons plotting to commit similar crimes.

[6] Article 24: The Minister of Interior may, on reasonable grounds and during the execution of sentence, order the release of a person detained for or convicted of any of the crimes provided for in this Law.

It is very clear that the by the authorities rejecting fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of assembly and expression, that, by their definition of a terrorist, more are being bred.The authorities must stop mass arrests that are unjustifiable and stop detaining individuals for long periods of time without trials or by allowing unfair trials to go ahead. This is what is called terror.

The War on Terror should begin firstly, by ensuring that citizens have their fundamental rights without violating them. The Kingdom should allow its citizens to participate in the running of their own country and treat them as real democratic citizens without threats from the government. The Kingdoms so-called War on Terror is not a war against individuals that want to cause indiscriminate harm to civilians but a war against its own people, a war against human rights, and a war against the freedom to speak.

Appendix

Appendix A: Anti-Terrorism law

بطاقة النظام

System	Law of Terrorism Crimes and Financing
Date of issuance	24 / 2 / 1435
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تنويه: هذه النسخة النصية للإطلاع وفي حالة الرغبة في الحصول على الوثيقة الأصلية للنظام راجع المركز الوطني للوثائق والمحفوظات.

Law of Terrorism Crimes and Financing

Royal Decree No. M / 16

Dated 24 / 02 / 1435 H

Chapter One

Definitions

Article 1

The following terms and phrases – wherever mentioned in this Law – shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

a. Crime of Terrorism

Any criminal act committed, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, by a perpetrator, with the intention to disturb public order, destabilize national security or state stability, endanger national unity, suspend the Basic Law of Governance or some of its articles, undermine state reputation or status, cause damage to state facilities or natural resources, attempt to coerce any of its authorities into a particular action or inaction or threaten to carry out acts that would lead to any of the aforementioned objectives or instigate such acts.

b. Crime of Terrorism Financing

Any act involving collecting, providing, receiving, allocating, transporting or transferring of funds or proceeds, wholly or partially, for any individual or collective terrorist activity, organized or otherwise, within the Kingdom or abroad, directly or indirectly, from a legitimate or illegitimate source; carrying out for the benefit of such activity or its elements any banking, financial or commercial transaction; collecting, directly or through an intermediary, funds to be utilized for its benefit; promoting its ideologies; arranging for training sites; sheltering its members or providing them with any type of weapons or forged documents; knowingly providing any other means of support and financing as well as any act that constitutes a crime within the scope of the agreements mentioned in the appendix to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorismand as defined in said agreements.

c. Funds

Assets or property of any value or type, whether material or immaterial, tangible or intangible, movable or immovable as well as documents, deeds or instruments in any form, including electronic and digital systems and bank credits evidencing title to or interest in such assets or property, including, but not limited to, all types of checks, transfers, shares, securities, bonds, drafts and letters of credit.

d. Provisional Seizure

Temporary ban on transport, transfer, exchange, disposition, movement, confiscation or temporary seizure of funds, proceeds and means, pursuant to an order issued by a competent court or authority.

e. Facilities and Public or Private Property

Real property and movables owned by the state or public corporate persons or dedicated to serve

public interest as well as existing installations owned or constructed by the state, activities offered for realizing public interest, including real property and movables owned by individuals, private corporate persons, or diplomatic bodies and international and humanitarian organizations operating in the Kingdom.

f. Competent Authority

The authority having the power to combat, collect evidence, arrest, investigate, prosecute or try, as the case may be, under the provisions of this Law.

Chapter Two

General Provisions

Article 2

The crimes of terrorism and its financing are considered major crimes requiring detention.

Article 3

Notwithstanding the principle of territoriality, the provisions of this Law shall apply to any person, Saudi or non-Saudi, who commits, aids, attempts, instigates, participates or conspires to commit - outside the Kingdom – a crime provided for in this Law, and is not tried for, if such crime aims to:

1. change the government system in the Kingdom,

2. suspend the Basic Law of Governance or some of its articles,

3. coerce the State into a particular action or inaction,

4. assault Saudi citizens abroad,

5. cause damage to State properties abroad, including embassies or other diplomatic or consular premises,

6. carry out a terrorist act on board any means of transport registered in the Kingdom or carrying its flag, or

7. undermine the interests of the Kingdom, its economy or national or societal security.

Chapter Three

Procedures

Article 4

The Minister of the Interior may issue a warrant of arrest against any person suspected of committing a crime provided for in this Law and may delegate such power in accordance with controls set by him.

Article 5

The investigating authority may detain any person accused of a crime provided for in this Law for a period, or successive periods, not exceeding six months, and may extend such period(s) for six months if the investigation so requires. In the cases where the investigation requires longer periods of detention, the matter shall be referred to the specialized criminal court to decide on the extension.

Article 6

Without prejudice to the right of the accused to inform his family of his arrest, the investigating authority may issue an order barring contact with the accused for a period not exceeding ninety days if the investigation so warrants. If the investigation requires a longer period, the matter shall be referred to the specialized criminal court for decision thereon.

Article 7

The accused may not be provisionally released except by order of the Minister of Interior or his designee.

Article 8

The specialized criminal court shall decide on crimes set forth in this Law, as well as on claims for annulment of decisions and claims for compensation in connection with the application of this Law. Judgments rendered by such court may be appealed before the specialized court of appeals, and may be challenged before a specialized circuit at the Supreme Court.

Article 9

The court may issue a default judgment against a person accused of committing a crime set forth in this Law if he was duly notified through process service or through official media. The convicted person shall have the right to challenge the judgment.

Article 10

A person accused of a crime set forth in this Law may seek the assistance of a licensed lawyer to defend him before filing the case with the court, in ample time determined by the investigating authority.

Article 11

If multiple interrelated crimes were committed and one of which is a crime set forth in this Law, the specialized criminal court shall have jurisdiction to decide on all crimes attributed to the accused, unless such crimes were filed separately prior to their filing with said court.

Article 12

The court may seek the assistance of experts and may summon officials from the apprehending and investigating authorities for testimony. Where necessary, testimony of experts and witnesses may be conducted in the absence of the accused person and his lawyer and in coordination with the

public prosecutor. The accused or his lawyer shall be informed of the content of the expert report without disclosing the identity of the expert. Necessary protection must be provided as required by the state of the witness or expert, the circumstances of the case and the types of potential risks.

Article 13

Notwithstanding the provisions related to banking confidentiality, the Minister of Interior, in exceptional cases at his discretion, may enable the investigating authority, through the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, to access or obtain data or information related to accounts, deposits, trusts, safe boxes, transfers or movements of funds at banking institutions, if the investigating authority has sufficient evidence to connect them to crimes set forth in this Law. The Minister of Interior shall, in coordination with the Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, issue relevant regulations.

Article 14

All entities shall enable the competent authority – represented by preliminary criminal investigation officers and investigators – to access information and data relating to the crime of financing terrorism, as required by the preliminary investigation results at the discretion of the competent authority.

Article 15

Investigation proceedings or filing of criminal cases relating to crimes provided for in this Law or crimes related thereto shall not be conditional upon a complaint by the victim, his representative or

his heirs. The civil claimant may file his case before the specialized criminal court after the completion of the investigation relating to public right.

Article 16

The Minister of Interior, or his designee, may permit entry into homes and offices for search and arrest in relation to a crime set forth in this Law at any time within the period specified in the search warrant. In exigent circumstances, no permit is required for such purpose, provided that a report is prepared providing grounds for such exigency.

Article 17

The Minister of Interior, or his designee, may issue a reasoned order for the monitoring, seizure and recording of all forms of communication, including messages, correspondences, publications, packages and telephone conversations, in relation to a committed or plotted crime, if deemed useful.

Article 18

The Minister of Interior, or any person acting on his behalf, may urgently order expeditious provisional seizure, for a period of three months renewable for similar periods, of funds, proceeds or means suspected of being used in committing any of the crimes set forth in this Law, pending completion of the investigation conducted in this respect. Such seizure shall be promptly executed by the competent authority without delay.

Article 19

The specialized criminal court may, during the hearing, order a provisional seizure of funds, proceeds or means or the continuation of a seizure pending completion of trial. The seizure shall be executed by the competent monitoring and supervisory authorities without delay.

Article 20

Chairmen and members of the boards of directors of financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, andnon-profit organizations as well as their owners, employees, hired hands and authorized representatives shall be exempted from criminal liability resulting from execution of the duties set forth in this Law or the violation of any restriction imposed to maintain confidentiality of information, unless it is established that the actions were maliciously carried out to harm the person subject of the transaction.

Chapter IV

Concluding Provisions

Article 21

The specialized criminal court may, on reasonable grounds that the convict will not repeat any of the crimes provided for in this Law, stay the execution of the penalty, provided such stay does not exceed half the term, unless he is a repeat offender.

The court shall provide grounds upon which such partial stay of execution is rendered. Its decision shall be appealable. If the convict repeats the crime, the stay of execution shall be revoked and the stayed penalty shall be executed without prejudice to the penalty prescribed for the new crime.

Article 22

A conspiracy between two persons or more to commit any one of the crimes provided for in this Law shall be deemed an aggravating circumstance.

Article 23

Without prejudice to civil right, the Minister of Interior may stay prosecution against any person who reports a crime provided for in this Law, prior to or after its commission, and cooperates with the competent authorities during the investigation for the purpose of apprehending the remaining perpetrators of said crime or of another crime similar in kind and gravity, or leads the authorities to wanted persons or persons plotting to commit similar crimes.

Article 24

The Minister of Interior may, on reasonable grounds and during the execution of sentence, order the release of a person detained for or convicted of any of the crimes provided for in this Law.

Article 25

A person accused or convicted of one of the crimes provided for in this Law, who sustains damage due to prolonged detention or imprisonment, may petition the Minister of Interior or his Deputy seeking indemnification prior to filing before the specialized criminal court. The petition shall be reviewed by a settlement committee formed for such purpose, pursuant to a decision by the Minister. Said committee shall comprise at least three members, including a Sharia counselor and a legal counselor. Committee decisions shall be taken by majority within a period not exceeding sixty days from the date of filing the petition.

Article 26

Specialized centers shall be set up to educate persons detained for or convicted of any of the crimes provided for in this Law, so as to enhance patriotism and correct any misconceptions they have. Committees' work procedures, formation and remunerations of members and experts shall be determined pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior. Instead of detention, the investigating authority may commit to such centers persons arrested or reported as suspects.

Article 27

The Ministry of Interior shall establish centers named "Correction and Rehabilitation Centers" to provide care to persons detained for or convicted of any of the crimes provided for in this Law, facilitate their integration in the community, enhance their patriotism and correct any misconceptions they have. The Minister of Interior shall issue rules governing these centers and determine remunerations of staff and persons providing service thereto.

Article 28

The Minister of Interior shall issue regulations setting forth security measures, rights, duties, violations and penalties as well as classification of detainees and inmates within detention centers and prisons designated for the implementation of the provisions of this Law. Such regulations shall provide for measures to correct and improve the social and health conditions of detainees and inmates.

Article 29

Any person concerned with the implementation of the provisions of this Law shall maintain the confidentiality of information he becomes privy to, and such information may not be disclosed except for the use of the competent authorities. Unless justified, no disclosure may be made to any person of any of the reporting, inquiry, investigation or trial procedures, or of data related thereto, in respect of any of the crimes set forth in this Law.

Article 30

The competent authorities in the Kingdom may exchange information with counterpart authorities in other countries with which the Kingdom has valid agreements or treaties, or on the basis of reciprocity.

Article 31

1 – Crimes set forth in this Law shall not be subject to statute of limitations.

2 – Incompetent persons accused in crimes of terrorism and its financing must be referred to the specialized criminal court to take necessary action in accordance with Sharia.

Article 32

The Standing Committee on Combating Terrorism at the Ministry of Interior shall put in place necessary mechanisms for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions No. 1267 and No. 1373 and other related resolutions. Such mechanisms shall be specified pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior.

Article 33

The Standing Committee on Combating Terrorism at the Ministry of Interior shall receive requests from states, agencies and organizations relating to Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism financing.

Article 34

The Committee for Mutual Legal Assistance at the Ministry of Interior shall receive requests for mutual legal assistance concerning crimes of terrorism financing.

Article 35

The Financial Intelligence Unit at the Ministry of Interior shall – in its capacity as a central national agency –receive reports on suspected terrorism financing crimes; collect, analyze and disseminate information, and request imposition of provisional seizure in accordance with Article 18 of this Law. Said Unit may exchange information with counterpart agencies in accordance with Article 25 of the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

Article 36

Without prejudice to the rights of bona fide parties, the investigating authority shall have the authority to identify and track funds, properties, assets and means used in the commission of a terrorism financing crime which may be subject to confiscation.

Article 37

The information disclosed by financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and non-profit organizations may be exchanged among the competent authorities in the Kingdom providing that the confidentiality of such information be fully maintained, and no disclosure thereof may be made except to the extent necessary for use in investigations or actions relating to

the crime of terrorism financing.

Article 38

An accused person convicted of a crime related to terrorism financing may be extradited to another state provided that such extradition be pursuant to a valid agreement between the Kingdom and the requesting state, or on the basis of reciprocity. If the extradition request is denied, he shall be tried before the competent courts in the Kingdom, using investigations provided by the state requesting extradition.

Article 39

Financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and non-profit organizations shall be subject to the provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Law and its Implementing Regulations, with respect to crimes of terrorism financing, terrorist operations, terrorist organizations or terrorist financiers.

Article 40

The provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law shall apply in cases not provided for in this Law.

Article 41

This Law shall enter into force on the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Appendix B: Royal Decree was issued in relation to terrorist activities

وكالة الأنباء السعودية

عام / أمر ملكي : يعاقب بالسجن كل من شارك في أعمال قتالية خارج المملكة أو الانتماء للتيارات أو الجماعات الدينية والفكرية المتطرفة

الرياض 03 ربيع الآخر 1435 هـ الموافق 03 فبراير 2014 م واس

صدر اليوم أمر ملكي فيما يلي نصه : -
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الرقم: أ / 44
التاريخ :3/ 4 / 1435 هـ
بعون الله تعالى
نحن عبدالله بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود
ملك المملكة العربية السعودية
انطلاقاً من مقاصد الشريعة الإسلامية في حفظ الأمة ، في دينها ، وأمنها ، ووحدتها ، وتآلفها ، وبعدها عن الفرقة ، والتناحر ، والتنازع ، استهداءً بقول الحق سبحانه // واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعاً ولا تفرقوا // ، وقوله جل وعلا // وأن هذا صراطي مستقيماً فاتبعوه ولا تتبعوا السبل فتفرق بكم عن سبيله // ، وقوله صلى الله عليه وسلم // من فارق الجماعة شبراً فارق الإسلام //.
وتأسيساً على قواعد الشرع بوضع الضمانات اللازمة لحفظ كيان الدولة من كل متجاوز للمنهج الدستوري المستقر عليه في المملكة العربية السعودية ، بما يمثل نظامها العام الذي استتب به أمنها ، وتآلف عليه شعبها ، تسير به على هدى من الله وبصيرة ، تهدي بالحق وبه تعدل.
وانطلاقاً من واجبنا نحو سد الذرائع المفضية لاستهداف منهجنا الشرعي ، وتآلف القلوب عليه من قبل المناهج الوافدة ، التي تتخطى ضوابط الحرية في التبني المجرد للأفكار والاجتهادات إلى ممارسات عملية تخل بالنظام ، وتستهدف الأمن ، والاستقرار ، والطمأنينة ، والسكينة العامة ، وتلحق الضرر بمكانة المملكة ، عربياً وإسلامياً ودولياً وعلاقاتها مع الدول الأخرى بما في ذلك التعرض بالإساءة إليها ورموزها.

// يتبع //
17:08 ت م

وكالة الأنباء السعودية

عام / أمر ملكي : يعاقب بالسجن كل من شارك في أعمال قتالية خارج المملكة أو الانتماء للتيارات أو الجماعات الدينية والفكرية المتطرفة إضافة أولى

وبعد الاطلاع على المواد (الحادية عشرة ، والثانية عشرة ، والسادسة والثلاثين ، والثامنة والثلاثين ، والتاسعة والثلاثين ، والثامنة والأربعين ، والخامسة والخمسين) من النظام الأساسي للحكم ، الصادر بالأمر الملكي رقم (أ / 90) بتاريخ 27 / 8 / 1412هـ.
وبعد الاطلاع على الأنظمة والأوامر ذات الصلة.
وعملاً بقواعد المصالح المرسلة في فقهنا الشرعي.
وبناءً على ما تقتضيه المصلحة العامة.
أمرنا بما هو آت :
أولاً: يعاقب بالسجن مدة لا تقل عن ثلاث سنوات ، ولا تزيد على عشرين سنة ، كل من ارتكب - كائناً من كان - أياً من الأفعال الآتية :
1 - المشاركة في أعمال قتالية خارج المملكة ، بأي صورة كانت ، محمولة على التوصيف المشار إليه في ديباجة هذا الأمر.
2 - الانتماء للتيارات أو الجماعات - وما في حكمها - الدينية أو الفكرية المتطرفة أو المصنفة كمنظمات إرهابية داخلياً أو إقليمياً أو دولياً ، أو تأييدها أو تبني فكرها أو منهجها بأي صورة كانت ، أو الإفصاح عن التعاطف معها بأي وسيلة كانت ، أو تقديم أي من أشكال الدعم المادي أو المعنوي لها ، أو التحريض على شيء من ذلك أو التشجيع عليه أو الترويج له بالقول أوالكتابة بأي طريقة.
وإذا كان مرتكب أي من الأفعال المشار إليها في هذا البند من ضباط القوات العسكرية ، أو أفرادها ، فتكون العقوبة السجن مدة لا تقل عن خمس سنوات ، ولا تزيد عن ثلاثين سنة.
ثانياً : لا يخل ما ورد في البند (أولاً) من هذا الأمر بأي عقوبة مقررة شرعاً أو نظاماً.

// يتبع //
17:08 ت م

وكالة الأنباء السعودية

عام / أمر ملكي : يعاقب بالسجن كل من شارك في أعمال قتالية خارج المملكة أو الانتماء للتيارات أو الجماعات الدينية والفكرية المتطرفة

إضافة ثانية وأخيرة

ثالثاً : تسري على الأفعال المنصوص عليها في البند (أولاً) من هذا الأمر الأحكام المنصوص عليها في نظام جرائم الإرهاب وتمويله الصادر بالمرسوم الملكي رقم (م / 16) وتاريخ 24 / 2 / 1435هـ ، بما في ذلك الأحكام المتعلقة بالضبط والقبض والاستدلال والتحقيق والادعاء والمحاكمة.
رابعاً : تشكل لجنة من وزارة الداخلية ، ووزارة الخارجية ، ووزارة الشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف والدعوة والإرشاد ، ووزارة العدل ، وديوان المظالم ، وهيئة التحقيق والادعاء العام ، تكون مهمتها إعداد قائمة - تحدث دورياً - بالتيارات والجماعات المشار إليها في الفقرة (2) من البند (أولاً) من هذا الأمر ، ورفعها لنا ، للنظر في اعتمادها.
خامساً : قيام وزير الداخلية بالرفع لنا (أولاً بأول) عن وقوعات القبض ، والضبط ، والتحقيق ، والإدعاء للجرائم المنصوص عليها في البند (أولاً) من هذا الأمر.
سادساً : يعمل بما ورد في البنود السابقة من هذا الأمر بعد ثلاثين يوماً من تاريخ نشره في الجريدة الرسمية.
عبدالله بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود
// انتهى //
17:08 ت م

Appendix C: Statement by the Ministry of the Interior naming several groups as terrorist organisations.

وكالة الأنباء السعودية

سياسي / وزارة الداخلية: بيان بالمحظورات الأمنية والفكرية على المواطن والمقيم ، وإمهال المشاركين بالقتال خارج المملكة 15 يوما إضافية لمراجعة النفس والعودة إلى وطنهم

الرياض 6 جمادى الأولى 1435هـ الموافق 7 مارس 2014مواس
صدر اليوم من وزارة الداخلية البيان التالي:
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين، أما بعد:
فاستناداً إلى الأمر الملكي الكريم رقم أ / 44 وتاريخ 3 / 4 / 1435هـ ، القاضي في الفقرة (رابعاً) ، بتشكيل لجنة من وزارة الداخلية ، ووزارة الخارجية ، ووزارة الشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف والدعوة والإرشاد ، ووزارة العدل ، وديوان المظالم ، وهيئة التحقيق والادعاء العام ، تكون مهمتها إعداد قائمة ـ تحدث دوريا ـ بالتيارات والجماعات المشار إليها في الفقرة (2) من البند (أولاً) من الأمر الكريم ، ورفعها لاعتمادها.
فتود أنتوضح وزارة الداخلية بأن اللجنة المشار إليها اجتمعت وتدارست ذلك ورفعت للمقام الكريم بأن يشمل ذلك كل مواطن سعودي أو مقيم عند القيام بأي أمر من الأمور الآتية:
1ـالدعوة للفكر الإلحادي بأي صورة كانت ، أو التشكيك في ثوابت الدين الإسلامي التي قامت عليها هذه البلاد.
2ـكل من يخلع البيعة التي في عنقه لولاة الأمر في هذه البلاد، أو يبايع أي حزب، أو تنظيم،أو تيار، أو جماعة، أو فرد في الداخل أو الخارج.
3ـالمشاركة، أو الدعوة، أو التحريض على القتال في أماكن الصراعات بالدول الأخرى، أو الإفتاء بذلك.
4ـكل من يقوم بتأييد التنظيمات، أو الجماعات، أو التيارات، أو التجمعات، أو الأحزاب، أو إظهار الانتماء لها، أو التعاطف معها، أو الترويج لها، أو عقد اجتماعات تحت مظلتها، سواء داخل المملكة أو خارجها، ويشمل ذلك المشاركة في جميع وسائل الإعلام المسموعة، أو المقروءة، أو المرئية، ووسائل التواصل الاجتماعي بشتى أنواعها، المسموعة، أو المقروءة، أو المرئية، ومواقع الإنترنت،أو تداول مضامينها بأي صورة كانت، أو استخدام شعارات هذه الجماعات والتيارات، أو أي رموز تدل على تأييدها أو التعاطف معها.
5ـالتبرع أو الدعم، سواء كان نقدياً أو عينياً، للمنظمات، أو التيارات، أو الجماعات الإرهابية أو المتطرفة، أو إيواء من ينتمي إليها، أو يروج لها داخل المملكة أو خارجها.
// يتبع //
16:32 ت م

سياسي / وزارة الداخلية: بيان بالمحظورات الأمنية والفكرية على المواطن والمقيم ، وإمهال المشاركين بالقتال خارج المملكة 15 يوما إضافية لمراجعة النفس والعودة إلى وطنهم / إضافة أولى

6ـ الاتصال أو التواصل مع أي من الجماعات،أو التيارات، أو الأفراد المعادين للمملكة.
7ـالولاء لدولة أجنبية، أو الارتباط بها، أو التواصل معها بقصد الإساءة لوحدة واستقرار أمن المملكة وشعبها.
8ـالسعي لزعزعة النسيج الاجتماعي واللحمة الوطنية، أو الدعوة، أو المشاركة، أو الترويج، أو التحريض على الاعتصامات، أو المظاهرات، أو التجمعات، أو البيانات الجماعية بأي دعوى أو صورة كانت، أو كل ما يمس وحدة واستقرار المملكة بأي وسيلة كانت.
9ـحضور مؤتمرات، أو ندوات، أو تجمعات في الداخل أو الخارج تستهدف الأمن والاستقرار وإثارة الفتنة في المجتمع.
10ـالتعرض بالإساءة للدول الأخرى وقادتها.
11ـالتحريض، أو استعداء دول، أو هيئات، أو منظمات دولية ضد المملكة.
وتشير وزارة الداخلية بأنه تمت موافقة المقام الكريم على ما جاء بهذه المقترحات وصدر الأمر الكريم رقم 16820 وتاريخ 5 / 5 / 1435هـ باعتمادها، وأن يبدأ تنفيذ هذا الأمر اعتباراً من يوم الأحد 8 / 5 / 1435هـ ، الموافق 9 مارس 2014م، وأن من يخالف ذلك بأي شكل من الأشكال منذ هذا التاريخ ستتم محاسبته على كافة تجاوزاته السابقة، واللاحقة لهذا البيان، كما أمر المقام الكريم بأن يمنح كل من شارك في أعمال قتالية خارج المملكة بأي صورة كانت مهلة إضافية، مدتها خمسة عشر يوماً اعتباراً من صدور هذا البيان لمراجعة النفس والعودة عاجلاً إلى وطنهم، سائلين الله أن يفتح على صدورهم، وأن يعودوا إلى رشدهم.
وإذا تعلن وزارة الداخلية ذلك لترفق بهذا القائمة الأولى للأحزاب، والجماعات، والتيارات التي يشملها هذا البيان وهي كل من أطلقت على نفسها مسمى :((تنظيم القاعدةـ تنظيم القاعدة في جزيرة العربـتنظيم القاعدة في اليمنـتنظيم القاعدة في العراقـداعشـجبهة النصرة ـحزب الله في داخل المملكةـجماعة الإخوان المسلمينـجماعة الحوثي)). علماً بأن ذلك يشمل كلتنظيم مشابه لهذه التنظيمات، فكراً، أو قولاً، أو فعلاً، وكافةالجماعات والتيارات الواردة بقوائم مجلس الأمن والهيئات الدولية وعُرفت بالإرهاب وممارسة العنف.
// يتبع // 16:32 ت م

وكالة الأنباء السعودية

سياسي / وزارة الداخلية: بيان بالمحظورات الأمنية والفكرية على المواطن والمقيم ، وإمهال المشاركين بالقتال خارج المملكة 15 يوما إضافية لمراجعة النفس والعودة إلى وطنهم / إضافة ثانية واخيرة

وسوف تقوم الوزارة بتحديث هذه القائمة بشكل دوري وفق ما ورد فيالأمر الملكي الكريم، وتهيب بالجميع التقيد التام بذلك، مؤكدة في نفس الوقت بأنه لن يكون هناك أي تساهل، أو تهاون مع أي شخص يرتكب أياً مما أشير إليه.

ونسأل الله عز وجلالهداية للجميع مستذكرين قول الحق تعالى :(فمن تاب من بعد ظلمه وأصلح فإن الله يتوب عليه إن الله غفور رحيم). هذا وباللهالتوفيق أولاً وأخيراً.

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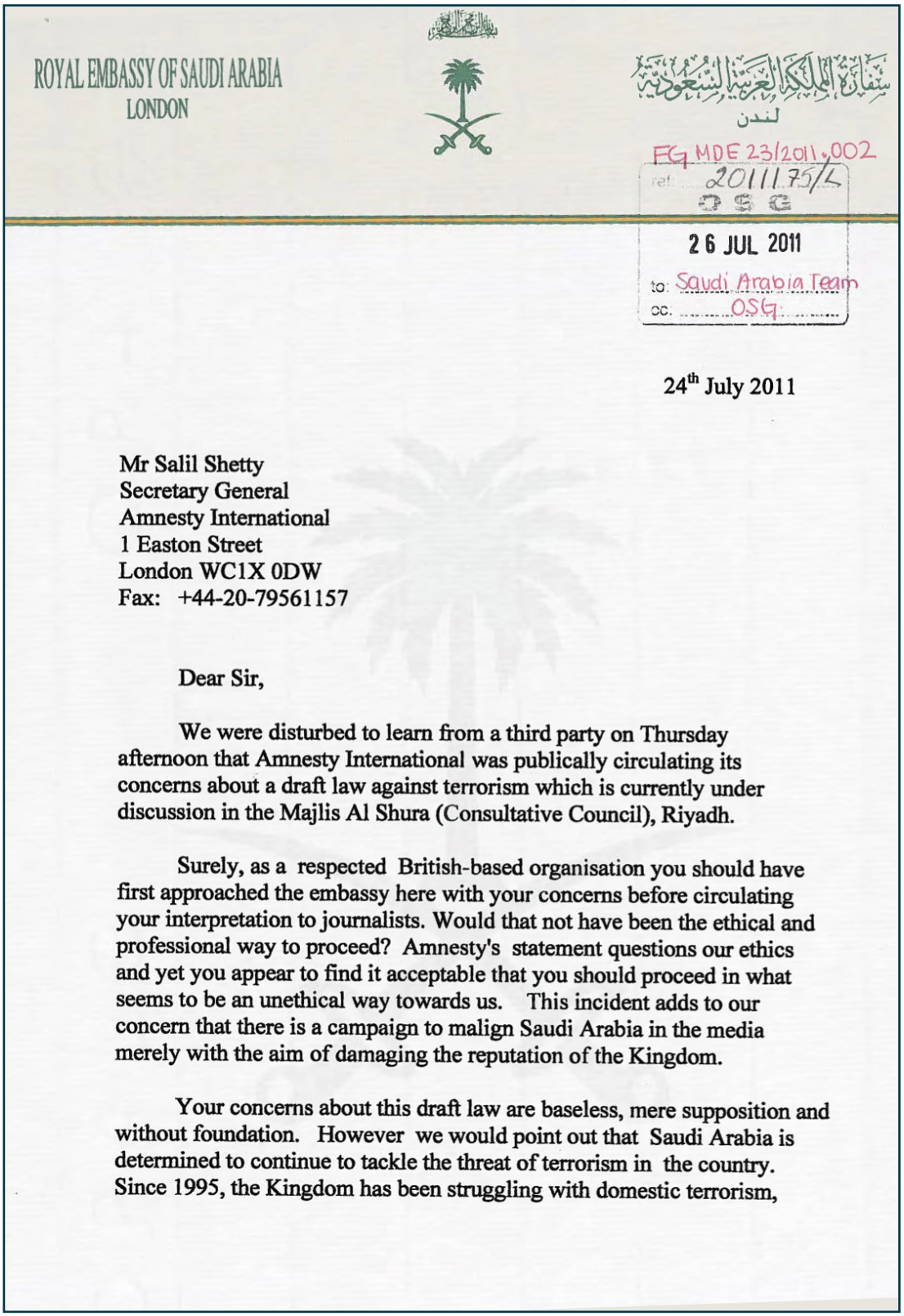
Appendix D: Statement by the Saudi Embassy in London in response to Amnesty International



ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
LONDON

سفارة المملكة العربية السعودية
لندن

FG MDE 23/2011.002
ref: 20111751/L
DSG

26 JUL 2011
to: Saudi Arabia Team
cc: OSG

24th July 2011

Mr Salil Shetty
Secretary General
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
Fax: +44-20-79561157

Dear Sir,

We were disturbed to learn from a third party on Thursday afternoon that Amnesty International was publically circulating its concerns about a draft law against terrorism which is currently under discussion in the Majlis Al Shura (Consultative Council), Riyadh.

Surely, as a respected British-based organisation you should have first approached the embassy here with your concerns before circulating your interpretation to journalists. Would that not have been the ethical and professional way to proceed? Amnesty's statement questions our ethics and yet you appear to find it acceptable that you should proceed in what seems to be an unethical way towards us. This incident adds to our concern that there is a campaign to malign Saudi Arabia in the media merely with the aim of damaging the reputation of the Kingdom.

Your concerns about this draft law are baseless, mere supposition and without foundation. However we would point out that Saudi Arabia is determined to continue to tackle the threat of terrorism in the country. Since 1995, the Kingdom has been struggling with domestic terrorism,

only recently eradicating a number of Al-Qaeda cells that took root in the country. Before that time, many terrorist acts occurred across the Kingdom, killing scores of people and sowing fear. Today, thanks to the efforts of the security services as well as the successful rehabilitation programs introduced by the Kingdom to defeat the evil of terrorism, those cells are largely eradicated. The Kingdom's anti-terror campaign and rehabilitation programs have been praised by the UN and many other nations. However, regional unrest provides breeding grounds for new threats. The continued growth of Al-Qaeda presents us with a serious challenge, and policies that prevent this group from establishing an affiliated network in the Kingdom are necessary.

The fight against terrorism requires appropriate legislation, which in turn has to receive Consultative Council (Shura Council) approval. Your organisation is wrong to suggest that this draft law contains provisions that could be used to suppress dissent rather than against terrorist activities. Even if the draft law were to be enacted (something in no way guaranteed), a proper understanding of Saudi government and society would tell you that these concerns are misplaced. The notion that the Kingdom would use these powers against ordinary citizens is ludicrous and offensive, as anyone with a proper understanding of Saudi government and the ethos of compromise in Saudi society would realise. Had Amnesty contacted the Embassy, we could have explained to you what the Consultative Council (Shura Council) is being asked to approve, why this draft law has been proposed and why it would never be used to suppress dissent, as you suggest.

Moreover, it should be noted that there has been proper debate within Saudi Arabia about th is draft law which gives judges discretion over the reporting of the detention of a suspected terrorist and the circumstances in which such a suspect can be held in prison prior to trial. For those who work in counter-terrorism, the reasons for this are clear. There are cases in which revealing that a suspect has been apprehended could undermine an ongoing operation against a larger terrorist cell and thus seriously damage counter-terrorism efforts.

ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
LONDON

سفارة المملكة العربية السعودية
لندن

None of this is to say that legitimate rights of suspects should not or will not be protected, only that when dealing with terrorism, the challenges are immense, as are the difficulties in resolving them within a legal framework.

On a final note, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that forged documents, purporting to be from officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have recently been used by the press in the UK – resulting in legal action against the publication that sought to give them authority.

It is therefore highly regrettable that your organisation, which aims to improve human rights around the world and judges others on their integrity, should on this occasion fall so short in terms of complying with the standards it would demand of others.

We would appreciate it if, in fairness to us, you now publish our response in the same way in which you circulated your concerns about this draft law.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed bin Nawaf
Ambassador

cc Philip Luther, Director, Middle East and North Africa
Claudio Cordone, Senior Director, Research and Regional Programmes
Colm O Cuanachain, Senior Director, Campaigns
Marcia Poole, Senior Director, Communications and Information
Widney Brown, Senior Director, International Law, Policy

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HOW YOU CAN HELP ALQST

ALQST, is an independent, non-governmental organisation. We do not only reveal grave human rights violations and abuses that are occurring, but we also aim to carry out other activities such as conducting courses and seminars for the purpose of educating others about human rights and dignity. There are many ways in which you can help us:

- Take Action
- Share Work
- Report Issues
- Or Make a Donation on: https://www.alqst.org/en/how-you-can-help/donate.html

ALQST
القسط
لدعم حقوق الانسان
Advocating for Human Rights

The War on Terror or the War on Freedom?

To the Saudi People:

Remain peaceful and seek your rights by all legitimate means and do not let oppression lead you to abandon your demands. Life is worthless without freedom. Do not believe all government accusations, as without free press and an independent civil society, reality is not clear. Refrain from accusing someone of terrorism because of a government statement. Do not denounce your sons and do not be afraid when you have done nothing wrong. Do not despair or surrender to fear, submission, violence and extremism. This is what the authorities' oppressions aims to achieve.

To Human Rights Organizations:

Trust that there are people inside of the Kingdom who hear your voice and appreciate your efforts. Do not get tired or stop defending these victims, they merely cannot reach out to you to thank you because if they do, they will be committing an act of terrorism.

To the Saudi Authorities:

The War on Terror does not mean a war on your own people or their freedom and dignity. Trust that you won't be able to silence the voice of the people by using an iron fist or by falsifying accusations against the innocent. Fight terrorism by spreading tolerance, justice, freedom and dignity. Allow your people to choose who represents them; to know where their wealth is going, and how their country is being run. Allow your people to breathe and to voice their opinions in safety and without fearing your oppression, so they too can help eliminate terrorism.

To Countries in alliance with the Saudi authorities:

Look at people as equal humans regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or language. Oil and arms sales do not excuse your silence on human rights violations; it merely shows your support for its perpetrators.

To those wrongly accused of terrorism:

Do not resort to violence under any circumstance. Raise your voice loudly but peacefully. Do not become a victim of battles waged by others who use the weak as its fuel. State your demands clearly and eliminate any doubt of your peaceful aims.

To those who committed violence:

Do not continue on your mistaken path. Just because the authorities have oppressed you, you should not legitimize their oppression by using violence.

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