

Human Rights in Saudi Arabia in 2017



**ALQST Advocating for Human Rights
2018**

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Annual Report

Issue ID: ALQST-20180112200457-51

ALQST Advocating for Human Rights

Annual report issued by ALQST in the first quarter of each year, monitoring and documenting the main events of the previous year for the benefit of researchers, journalists, other organisations and anyone interested in reading a summary of the main human rights-related events occurring in Saudi Arabia.

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ALQST's messages

To the Saudi people:

Silence in the face of human rights violations and the suppression of free speech will endanger the lives of more reformers, activists and other members of the public. Hiding the truth and allowing tyranny to become entrenched will destroy Saudi society. Exposing violations, and challenging them by all legitimate means, is thus a social obligation that cannot be shirked. Those who can't participate in the fight against violations and injustice should do everything possible to help those who are challenging these things and calling for justice, and not give injustice any kind of backing.

To human rights organisations, activists and supporters of rights and freedoms:

Saudi society feels impotent, but appreciates your efforts and support. If people inside the country do not engage with you directly it doesn't mean that they aren't interested, but that they fear the wrath of the authorities. Those who revile you and support injustice do not represent Saudi society. When people fear the wrath of the authorities, or in some cases seek to win financial advantage, government positions, access, popularity or guarantees of safety by praising the actions of the authorities and reviling those who challenge their abuses and injustice, the loudest voices will not be representative of popular opinion but reflect this climate of fear and fawning. Yet free and truthful voices exist and at times feel compelled to speak out, which leads to imprisonment, exile, or living under constant threat, interrogation and intimidation by the authorities, with the aim of silencing them.

To the Saudi authorities:

These violations must completely stop. Trying to entrench your tyranny by violating rights, imprisoning people, taking away freedom of speech and suppressing the freedoms of all sectors of society will lead to further social collapse and hold back the country's development. It increases the future danger of either a resort to violence as a result of oppression and tyranny or the underdevelopment that results from corruption. What is happening in Saudi Arabia now is a war on freedoms, the annihilation of society,

the erasing of history, and a covering-up of financial and administrative corruption, jeopardising the future of the country. This has to stop – now. Running for help to external allies and buying their loyalty and protection with the people’s wealth will not protect the country. Silencing those who criticise violations doesn’t mean that violations don’t exist. Paying public relations firms to improve the image of the country’s leadership doesn’t mean it has actually got better. Rather, freedoms, justice and equality must be allowed to take their course. The Saudi public must be allowed to participate in governing the country, to form institutions, unions, associations and parties, and to build civil society organisations freely for a healthy society to be created. The Saudi people have the right to live in dignity, to have their culture and history respected, and to be allowed to build their country, control its resources and determine its future. It is their right that this year, 2018, should not be a year of violations, fear and injustice like 2017 and previous years.

To countries allied with the Saudi regime and the rest of the international community:

Don’t believe the claims of the Saudi regime and its agents that Saudi society is content with the current state of affairs. You shouldn’t listen to only one side of the story, the side with total control of the situation. Remember that the people of Saudi Arabia have the same right to a decent life as all other people in the world, and that the authorities’ systematic vilification of the Saudi public should not be accepted by your institutions and promoted by your media. It is not right to brand the Saudi public as extremists, terrorists, backward or not ready for reform simply because the Saudi regime portrays them as such, when the public remain muzzled, threatened and unable to express their opinions freely.

Remember that human rights are for everyone, regardless of religion, race or colour. Oil and arms deals, along with corruptly funded lobby groups, should not prevent you from taking moral stances and seriously defending human rights and freedoms. We cannot dream of peaceful societies as long as wealth is in the hands of corrupt leaders, as long as power and influence are in the hands of countries that put interests ahead of values, and as long as human rights are at the bottom of those countries’ list of priorities.

To lovers of justice and human rights everywhere:

Regimes everywhere should be pressured by civil societies to stop putting interests ahead of values, and to stop committing, supporting or remaining silent about human rights violations. Free, active civil societies can bring about change for the better and continue to press for it, even if governments are not working in that direction.

Introduction and general overview

The Saudi authorities are continuing their persistent violations of human rights, while gambling that time is on their side. They are pressing ahead with business as usual without making any move toward genuine reform. The same state of repression continues, with the silencing of criticism at home and abroad. Domestically, the authorities make sure to silence anyone who criticises their actions and exposes their abuses, by means of repression, imprisonment, threats, and harassment at work and in their daily lives. Outside the country, they seek to suppress criticism by means of major PR campaigns promoting the Saudi leadership as being in favour of reform and opening up the country. These efforts are partly successful, and become more widely accepted with each repetition. The world is now hearing a clear message that the Saudi Crown Prince is embarking on a programme of reforms, in terms that have been bandied about so often before, and being asked just to give the regime a chance. But this what the regime always does – it has no intention of seriously carrying out any genuine reform measures. On the contrary, it is behaving with increasing brutality. Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman has been responsible for unprecedented waves of arrests, as well as the Yemen war with all its catastrophic consequences.

In the introduction to its Annual Report last year ALQST wrote:

“In 2016, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia saw a further ramping up of the repression that has been going on ever since King Salman came to power in January 2015. He took the throne making lavish promises that quickly proved empty and did nothing to improve conditions in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, from a human rights perspective the situation has continued to show a grim deterioration.”

Twelve months on, the same problems remain. There have been no genuine reforms, although there have been constant promises. The authorities have continued to act in the same way, with constant and indeed intensifying waves of repression, intimidation and human rights violations. In the course of 2017 a number of human rights activists were arrested, including two members of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA)

– Abdulaziz al-Shubaily and Issa al-Hamid – as well as Essam Koshak, Ahmed al-Mushaikhas (who was released after 27 days in prison), Samar Badawi (who was released the same day after being interrogated, made to sign undertakings and placed under a travel ban), Loujain al-Hathloul (released after four days in prison), Mohamed al-Oteibi, reformist clerics like Dr Salman al-Awda, Abdullah al-Maliki, Essam al-Zamel, Mustafa al-Hasan (released in 2018) and more than 400 individuals who were rounded up in unlawful sweeps of activists, reformers, clerics, princes and businessmen.

The Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh has also sentenced several human rights activists to jail: Mohamed al-Oteibi for 14 years, Abdullah al-Atawi for seven years, Essam Koshak for four years, Essa al-Nukhaifi for six years, Naima al-Matrood for six years, Abdulaziz al-Shubaily for eight years, Issa al-Hamid for 11 years, Fahad al-Fahad for five years and Mohamed al-Humaidi for two years, as well as imposing other punishments such as bans on travelling abroad or writing, and financial penalties.

During the year 146 people were executed in Saudi Arabia, of whom 40 per cent were executed not in accordance with the Sharia principles of qisas (requit) or hudud punishments but at the individual discretion of a judge, and for non-violent crimes. The authorities allowed neither free speech nor freedom of assembly or freedom to form associations. Freedom of expression is now more restricted than ever, and 2017 was particularly hard for the Saudi public. Even posting on the social media platform Twitter was harshly suppressed, and even the regime's regular supporters were not exempt from restrictions on tweeting. The authorities tried to pervert the one space where ordinary members of the public can express themselves, namely social media, as well as coming down heavily on any peaceful civil associations. They did not allow civil associations promoting human rights, even after the introduction of a new NGO law (the Law on Associations and Foundations); in fact the Law sets conditions whereby government agencies are able to restrict civil activism. There have therefore been no applications to establish any independent associations to promote and advocate for human rights. The authorities have also continued to suppress any attempts to carry out such activities. 2017 saw the final sentences passed on ACPRA members, bringing their total combined sentences to nearly 200

years in prison terms and travel bans. The founders of the Union for Human Rights were also jailed, and the ban on the Adala Centre for Human Rights continued. The so-called “Jeddah Reformers” case remains open, and Dr Saud al-Hashemi, Dr Musa al-Qarni and Dr Abdulrahman al-Shumayri remain in prison.

The Saudi war on Yemen continued throughout 2017, with the documented use of internationally banned weapons. The Saudi authorities acknowledged the use of cluster bombs in Yemen, after a long period of denial on their part and on that of their allies and arms suppliers.

The Saudi authorities also carried out eviction campaigns in a number of places, involving gross violations of human rights and a refusal on the part of the authorities to shoulder their responsibilities toward those displaced. In Jeddah and Taif, for example, a number of residents were evicted from what were said to be shanty dwellings. Their homes and property were destroyed and several of those who protested were arrested. The authorities also continued to evict people from their homes along the border with Yemen because of the ongoing war. In Awamiya, in the Eastern Province, residents were evicted and their properties destroyed in a crackdown in the historic Musawwara neighbourhood, in the course of which gross violations of human rights were committed.

Timeline of major human rights-related events in 2017

At 5pm on Sunday, **January 8**, 2017 Essam Koshak received a summons from the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID) and presented himself to the CID in Mecca without knowing why he had been summoned. He was arrested at Mansour Police Station to appear before the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution on Monday morning, January 9 because of his activism defending human rights. At first he was prevented from appointing a lawyer and his detention was extended for a further four days. His lawyer was still unable to contact him formally or interview him. On Thursday, January 12 Koshak attended the first session of the investigation, with his lawyer finally present. On March 23 a petition with 30,719 signatures was submitted to the Saudi embassy in the Netherlands calling for his release.



On August 17 Koshak was transferred, together with Essa al-Nukhaifi, who had been arrested on December 17, 2016, from Mecca General Prison to Malaz Prison in Riyadh, ready to go on trial in the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC). Monday, August 21 was set as the date for the first session of Koshak's trial. On August 21 the trials of the two activists, Essam Koshak and Essa al-Nukhaifi, were assigned to Judge Abdulaziz Al Jaber, but the first session was held in his absence, before Judge Khaled al-Jasser instead. On August 22 Koshak and Nukhaifi were charged with inciting public opinion, and October 4 was set as the date for further sessions of their trials. The Public Prosecutor called for a delay, and the hearing was adjourned for both activists. October 29 was set as the date for Koshak's next hearing, and when it was held, Tuesday, November 28 was set as the

date for sentencing. On Wednesday, November 29 a hearing was held and adjourned for further evidence, with December 25 set as the date for the next session. On February 28, 2018 the SCC finally sentenced Essam Koshak to four years in prison and a ban on foreign travel for a further four-year period, and sentenced Essa al-Nukhaifi to six years in prison and a six-year travel ban.

On **January 9**, 2017 activist Ahmed al-Mushaikhas was arrested. He was released after 27 days in detention.

On **January 10**, ACPRA member Abdulaziz al-Shubaily was resentenced to eight years in prison and an eight-year on travelling abroad or writing on social media, the same sentence as before. His trial had begun in the SCC in Riyadh on October 27, 2014, with his sentence being handed down on May 29, 2016. Shubaily, the last member of ACPRA to be sentenced, was arrested on September 19, 2017.

On **January 11**, 2017, Fahad al-Fahad was sentenced to five years in prison and a further ten-year travel ban. He had already been in custody since April 7, 2016, facing charges that infringed his basic rights, notably preparing, storing and transmitting data harmful to public order by means of a Twitter account; communicating with organisations hostile to the country; denigrating the State and its judicial apparatus; inciting people against the Crown Prince by calling for demonstrations and rallies; and supporting a proscribed group, a reference to ACPRA.

On **January 18**, 2017 the SCC in Riyadh sentenced writer Nazeer al-Majed to seven years in prison for publishing articles on the Internet and taken into custody directly from the court. Majed has written articles critical of the Saudi regime and specifically criticising human rights violations. He has also written for Rassd News Network, Al-Hiwar al-Mutamaddin (Civilised Dialogue) and other online media outlets. The authorities accused him of penning articles inciting people against the Saudi regime as well as taking part in protests. He is currently being held in Al-Ha'ir Prison in Riyadh.

The report of the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Professor Philip Alston, and his delegation at the end of their 12-day mission to Riyadh, the first such visit in eight years, was published on **January 19, 2017**. The Special Rapporteur confirmed that although many Saudis believe there is no poverty in the kingdom, one of the richest countries in the world thanks to its oil wealth, there are many poor people in Saudi Arabia, and poverty occurs in many different areas including parts of the main cities.

On **January 31, 2017** the Saudi government acknowledged the use of clus-



ter bombs in Yemen. The Saudi-led Arab coalition said it would stop using British-made cluster munitions in Yemen, where thousands of civilians have been killed in the fighting going on since March 2015. A spokesperson for the coalition said they had only been used against “legitimate military targets”, and confirmed they were of British manufacture.

On **February 13, 2017** the activist and human rights defender Samar Badawi was told to report to the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution at 10am local time on February 25. She did so, and was released later that day having been questioned about her work on human rights issues, but remains under surveillance. She is also still banned from travelling abroad because of her human rights activism and attendance at sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. This is another example



of the way in which the Saudi authorities try to silence and intimidate all activists.

On **February 14**, ALQST received confirmation that 47-year-old social activist Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Haroun al-Humaidi was being held in Malaz Prison in Riyadh, where he remains. It has since been learned that he is serving a two-year sentence.



On **February 20**, prisoner of conscience Waleed Abu al-Khair was honoured as one of the recipients of the 2016 Law Society of Upper Canada Human Rights Award. He had previously received the Swedish Olof Palme Prize in 2012. Abu al-Khair has been in detention since April 16, 2014, serving a 15-year jail sentence for defending human rights in Saudi Arabia.



On **March 5**, ALQST received news, which it could not confirm at the time, that Dr Saad al-Buraik, a cleric close to the Saudi regime, had been under arrest since February after tweeting in sympathy with the arrested cleric Essam al-Owaid. Buraik posted a tweet containing prayers for the Saudi regime after ALQST published the news of his arrest, once it had eventually been confirmed. He was then let out of prison and met the Crown Prince, before being arrested again and re-released. His Twitter account, which had over a million followers, was closed down.

On **March 7**, news reached ALQST of the arrest of Dr Kassab al-Otaibi, a former opposition figure who now supports the Saudi regime. He resumed tweeting after a period on inactivity on Twitter to say that he was not under arrest. ALQST has learned that the Saudi judiciary has an active case against Dr Otaibi.

On **March 16**, the SCC passed a discretionary sentence (rather than a mandatory sentence or one specified in law) against Dr Awad al-Qarni, fining him 100,000 riyals (\$27,000) and banning him from Twitter. Dr Qarni was later arrested, on September 9, 2017.

On **April 11**, ALQST called for an emergency committee to be set up to tackle the spread of infectious diseases in Saudi prisons, having received confirmed reports of this from inside several prisons. ALQST called on the Saudi authorities to take the danger seriously instead of putting the lives of inmates and staff at risk by shirking their responsibilities. It called for transparency, so that prisoners and their families and society at large could see how dangerous the situation really was, and highlighted the worthlessness of media reports from non-independent parties. It argued that the only way to assess the prison situation properly was to have neutral, independent bodies working transparently, without pressure from the Saudi authorities. This cannot happen without the creation of a genuine civil society able to undertake such tasks. The reports reaching ALQST spoke of a sharp increase in the prevalence of infectious diseases in the kingdom's prisons. ALQST has previously produced reports and bulletins and videos about the state of Saudi prisons, with their severe overcrowding and rampant crime and diseases. It has reported incidents including deaths resulting either from illness or from criminal causes, yet the Saudi authorities have not taken serious measures to address these issues, only media campaigns to gloss over the state of prisons. Reports compiled for ALQST by observers on the ground during the month of April 2017 confirmed frequent and widespread cases of infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis and scabies. Prison staff were also affected, including some of those serving meals to inmates in Mecca General Prison. Dozens of prisoners in Mecca General Prison were isolated once it was discovered that they had tuberculosis, in view of the fact that the prison is severely overcrowded, with prisoners having to share beds or sleep in corridors and on landings, and these cramped conditions would aid the spread of infection. ALQST learned that some families had made strenuous but fruitless efforts to contact officials, seeking assurances of the prisoners' safety and to find out which cell blocks and sections of the prison were at risk. The Directorate of Prisons set up a commission to inspect prisons and investigate the families' repeated complaints, but the inspection team that visited Mecca Prison didn't even go inside the blocks but simply talked to the prison officials, as did the Saudi Human Rights Commission. Two days after ALQST's urgent call for an emergency panel to be set up it received confirmation, on April 13, that the number of cases of infection had risen and two new deaths had occurred in Mecca Penitentiary.

On **April 11**, Dina Ali was arrested in the Philippines by Saudi security forces and escorted back to Saudi Arabia. Her fate is still uncertain, as there have been conflicting reports as to whether she is being held in custody or has been released or has left Saudi Arabia again for Kuwait. Activist Alaa al-Anazi was also arrested for showing solidarity with Dina Ali by coming to the airport to meet her on her return from the Philippines. Alaa al-Anazi was released on April 18 after seven days in prison for this act of solidarity.



On **April 12**, 2017 Khaled al-Omair was released after more than a hundred months in prison, during which he was subjected to torture and other forms of abuse. His release came only after he went on a hunger strike for 29 days and ALQST organised a campaign to coincide with it that was widely supported by major international human rights organisations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Alkarama Foundation and the Gulf Centre for Human Rights as well as a number of UN Special Rapporteurs. Omair began his hunger strike, which included a refusal to accept visits or phone calls, on October 6, 2016 in protest against his continuing detention after the expiry of his eight-year prison term. He was sentenced for taking part in a demonstration, in a hearing that fell short of the standards for a fair trial and infringed his basic rights. In December 2008, during Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" against Gaza, a number of activists applied to the Saudi authorities for permission to stage a demonstration in Riyadh in solidarity with the victims in Gaza, as in many capital cities around the world. However the Council of Senior Scholars in Saudi Arabia issued a fatwa declaring demonstrations unlawful because they constituted disobedience to the Saudi authorities, which had banned them. On December 31, 2008, the day before the date set for the demonstration in Riyadh, Khaled al-Omair contacted the Interior Minister, Prince Mohamed bin Nayef, who refused to authorise the demonstration. The following day, January 1, 2009, Khaled al-Omair was arrested on al-Nahda Street in Riyadh by the

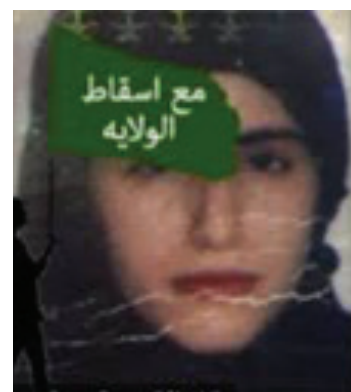


Mabaheth, the interior ministry's secret police, and thrown in jail.

Omar was subsequently put on trial in a secret court that failed to meet the standards for a fair trial. He faced sweeping and illegitimate charges that infringed his basic rights, and was sentenced to eight years in prison for rebellion against the ruler and taking part in a demonstration. October 5, 2016 was the date on which Khaled al-Omar was due to be released after serving his eight-year sentence, including a period in solitary detention. While in prison he suffered harsh conditions of detention and health difficulties related to his diabetes and cardiac and renal pain. When he was not released at the end of his unfair prison term Omar decided to go on strike, refusing food, visits and phone calls, until he was released. His strike lasted 29 days before he was transferred to the Counselling Centre in preparation for his release, which finally occurred on April 12, 2017.

On **April 16**, 2017, just over a year after being arrested on April 13, 2016, and after numerous violations of her rights, activist Naima Abdullah al-Matrood appeared before the SCC on charges that infringed her basic rights. The SCC in Riyadh sentenced her to six years in prison and a six-year ban on foreign travel, for the alleged offence of taking part in peaceful processions in the Eastern Province between 2011 and 2015.

On **April 18**, the authorities arrested Maryam al-Otaibi, who had turned to the authorities for help, complaining of beatings and physical abuse from her family. Instead of securing justice for her, the authorities twice backed her abusers and arrested her. She was released on July 30 after being held for more than three months, and was subsequently given a suspended sentence of six months in prison by the Criminal Court in Riyadh for her posts on Twitter.



On **April 23**, the Saudi authorities sentenced a mentally ill man to death. In the General Court in Hafr al-Batin, Judge Abdulaziz al-Lahem sentenced Ahmad bin Freih al-Shammari to death. Shammari had been arrested three years previously and found to have in his possession pictures of

armed fighters with the caption “Arabian Peninsula Organisation”, as well as pictures of leading Al-Qa-eda figures Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Turki al-Dan-dani and Issa al-Awshan, and video recordings containing images and text insulting God and the Prophet, the Prophet’s daughter Fatima, his cousin and son-in-law Ali ibn Abu Talib, and the Holy Quran.



The court confirmed that it had obtained, at its request, three reports and letters from the Al-Amal Mental Health Complex in Dammam. The first of these, dated June 23, 2016, stated that Ahmad bin Freih al-Shammari suffered from a personality disorder and drug dependency, and that he had a history of mental illness. In its second letter to the court the medical panel stated that because of his condition Shammari did not comprehend the consequences of his actions. In its third letter the panel said Shammari’s disorder made him impulsive and weak-willed, and his drug use made things even worse.

During the trial, Shammari said he could not remember what he had done, and neither admitted nor denied it. He told the judge he was mentally ill, that he consumed alcohol, narcotics and hashish, and that didn’t know what he had done. The judge, however, insisted on sentencing him on the basis of confessions he had made to the investigating commission, and called three investigators to testify that Shammari had confessed to takfir and other acts of blasphemy. Shammari responded by saying he had confessed because they talked him into it and promised that if he testified against himself they would let him go. He had therefore confessed to get away from them, trusting in their promises, which they then broke.

ALQST maintained that the crimes Ahmad bin Freih al-Shammari committed occurred while he was in a mental state that does not allow him to be punished, as was established for the court by the reports from Al-Amal Complex in Dammam. The court’s slow response, and its attempts to sidestep the reports and keep referring back to Al-Amal, showed that it was determined to punish the defendant. ALQST noted that although sentencing apostates to death is highly controversial among religious scholars the

Saudi government not only supports it but refuses to hear anything against it. The Saudi authorities cannot therefore fall back on religion as an excuse for implementing their own choices in sentencing. ALQST also maintained that Shammari's contradictory behaviour – his possession of photos of extremists, his insulting sacred symbols of Islam, the charge of takfir mentioned by the three witnesses, and his telling the judge, when asked about his occupation, that he didn't work and spent his time at home having debates with people he called Rafidites (a pejorative term for Shiites), thereby insulting the family of the Prophet – together confirmed what the medical reports said about his psychological and mental state, and made it imperative to quash the sentence passed on him.

The fact that the judge rejected and Shammari's statements made in court while accepting statements extracted from him by means of threats and empty promises, and ignored the medical reports provided, confirms that the court was determined to apply the death penalty, and provides further clear and significant evidence of the abuses and legal shortcomings of the courts in the Saudi justice system. ALQST called for a complete cessation of the practice of extracting forced confessions, and for courts not to accept any forced confessions whatsoever, whether extracted under torture and threats or by means of deception and inducement. It called for judges to accept only firm evidence, and to act with independence, objectivity and integrity.

April 30 saw the start of a visit to Saudi Arabia by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, which concluded on May 4. The Special Rapporteur said the definition of terrorism found in the 2014 Law on Combating Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing did not comply with international human rights standards, and the Saudi authorities were using the war on terror as a war on freedom, as ALQST had argued previously. The Special Rapporteur was due to present a comprehensive report on his findings in March 2018.



The Special Rapporteur noted that the authorities had prevented him, the international inspector, from going into several of the places he had asked to visit, and from meeting a number of activists he had asked to meet. He criticised the authorities' use of terrorism as a pretext for wide-scale human rights violations, and criticised the Counter-terrorism Law for classifying civil acts and peaceful protest as acts of terrorism. Saudi newspapers commented that the UN Special Rapporteur on terrorism didn't know exactly what terrorism meant.

On **May 10**, it was confirmed there were a number of casualties in the town of Awamiya in the Eastern Province following raids by the Saudi authorities. These operations were concentrated in the area around the Musawwara neighbourhood but also affected various other locations in Awamiya. Several people were killed and injured, including civilians. The authorities used



Al-Taraji Sports Club and Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Sports City as military bases and staging posts for operations out of Qatif. Residents were evicted and many homes and properties were demolished in the operation, which continued until August, nearly five months after it had begun.



Pictures and video footage reaching ALQST and published on the Internet showed the scale of the damage to homes and properties throughout the operation.

On **May 17**, it was confirmed to ALQST that some prisoners at Buraidah Prison had been beaten, tortured, and placed in solitary confinement after publishing video clips complaining about mistreatment.



In their videos the prisoners talked about the black market operating inside prisons, and the way the authorities allow prohibited items into the prison only to confiscate them later. They talked about the beatings, torture and humiliation they had undergone, and the lack of any means of appealing to higher authorities or lodging complaints against their abusers. They talked about the absence of human rights, and not seeing any of the government or quasi-government bodies that are supposed to deal with human rights. They have talked about administrative issues like lost documents and missing paperwork. Other difficulties they faced were disruptions to the water supply and not receiving their own clothes and personal items. They also mentioned health problems and failures to provide medical treatment; one prisoner told of being prevented from visiting his mother who had thrombosis. These video clips, incidentally, were being recorded at the time that the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism was visiting Saudi Arabia.

In another incident, ALQST was informed about the death of the prisoner A.M.H. in a section of Buraidah Prison, and of a number of prisoners being interrogated after ALQST published a report about the spread of tuberculosis in Saudi jails, the resulting official announcements and visits to prisons, and the authorities' reluctance to tackle the problem and protect prisoners.

ALQST has reported previously that Saudi prisons are full of crime, drugs, torture, mistreatment, lack of healthcare and mismanagement. It has also

reported on a number of prisoners dying when mismanagement had led to fights among prisoners in which innocent lives have been lost, or dying from disease and lack of healthcare. It has likewise published accounts of the administrative nightmare for prisoners who have come to the end of their custodial sentences but are not released because, the authorities claim, their paperwork has gone astray. It has also reported on corruption and bribery within the prison system and the extortion of money from prisoners as payment for banned items that are smuggled in or even for permitted items, or in order to secure certain services or rights.

Singling out prisoners for beatings, torture and solitary confinement for recording and uploading videos that tell about their sufferings is further evidence, on top of the authorities' refusal to allow the UN Special Rapporteur to visit certain prisons, and numerous testimonies that ALQST and others have documented and published from time to time, of the poor conditions in Saudi prisons. It further highlights the Saudi authorities' lack of seriousness about protecting prisoners' lives and dignity and their eagerness to make cosmetic improvements in a few cell blocks for use as model prisons to show visitors who have no idea about the purpose of prison visits and let the authorities decide the time and place of visits, so that they will write about these carefully contrived appearances without realising what really goes on deep inside Saudi jails.

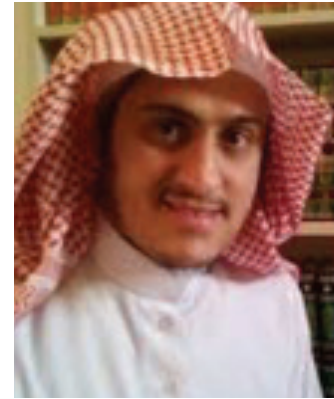
Activists are no longer the only ones monitoring and documenting human rights violations. What these prisoners have done by posting their videos is part of the work of protecting and promoting human rights. The lack of freedom to undertake civil and human rights activity within Saudi Arabia means that prisoners and victims of abuse are now themselves documenting and publicising the things they are suffering, in a bold and pioneering and move.

On **May 24**, activist Maha al-Qahtani, the wife of ACPRA member Dr Mohammed al-Qahtani, confirmed that her husband had been put in solitary confinement as further punishment, but he was returned to the general prison the day after his wife published this news about him. Dr Qahtani is a



founding member of ACPRA and was sentenced by the SCC in Riyadh on March 9, 2013 to 11 years in prison and an 11-year travel ban, in addition to its order dissolving ACPRA.

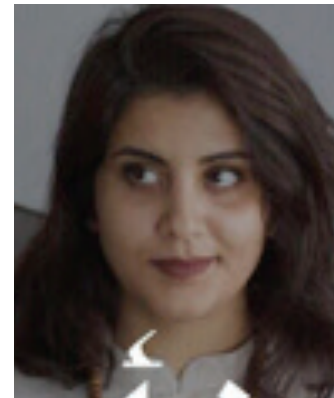
On **May 25**, the SCC sentenced Ibrahim al-Sakran to five years in prison on charges related to tweets considered insulting to the presidents of Arab and GCC states (i.e. Egypt and the UAE).



On **May 24**, the Qatar authorities arrested the prominent Saudi activist Mohamed al-Oteibi to Saudi Arabia after he was granted asylum in Norway. Oteibi was tried by the SCC in Riyadh, and on January 25, 2018 was given a discretionary sentence of 14 years in prison, including five years for cyber crimes. In addition, activist Abdullah al-Atawi was sentenced to seven years in prison for establishing a human rights association.



On **June 4**, at 3pm local time, Loujain al-Hathloul was arrested and detained by the Saudi authorities on her arrival in the country at Dammam Airport. On June 7 she was released after four days in prison, but the Saudi authorities continued to harass her to stop her activism in support of human rights.



On **June 20**, Saudi activists launched a campaign to show their support for human rights that generated tens of thousands of tweets and millions of followers for a hashtag saying “This is why we defend human rights”.



On **July 11**, activists on Twitter launched a hashtag saying “Dispossession and loss of life in Ruwais” in condemnation of the Saudi authorities’ excesses toward the Ruwais district in Jeddah, following operations to remove houses that allegedly contravened regulations. The operations involved evicting residents from their homes, cutting off electricity supplies, beating and arresting those who protested and destroying property.

Also on **July 11**, the authorities executed four persons they accused of terrorism and undermining security in the Eastern Province. ALQST maintained that the death penalty was applied in these cases ta’ziran (at the judge’s discretion) and not in accordance with the Sharia concept of qisas (requit), and also that at least one of the four told the court he had confessed under torture but the court went ahead with the sentencing anyway.

On **July 21**, Dr Hassan Farhan al-Maliki was sentenced to three months in prison and a fine of 50,000 riyals (\$13,500) as well as having his Twitter account closed down. Dr Maliki was subsequently arrested on September 11, 2017 and was denied visits and phone calls for the first few days of his detention.

On **August 8**, the SCC sentenced Omar al-Hamed to three years in prison for a video he published demanding the release of prisoners of conscience. Omar al-Hamed is the nephew of three brothers in detention, all of them members of ACPRA: Dr Abdullah al-Hamed, Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamed and Issa al-Hamed.



On **August 14**, the trials of ACPRA members came to an end, with sentences totalling almost 200 years of imprisonment and travel bans together with fines and bans on writing, along with other punishments as well as punishments for supporters.

On **August 17**, Hamed Al-Fahmi and activists Essam Koshak and Essa Al-Nukhaifi were transferred from Mecca General Prison to Malaz Prison in Riyadh in preparation for their trials in the SCC.



On **August 29**, ALQST co-signed a statement with 58 other organisations about the urgent need for an independent international inquiry on Yemen. The organisations called on governments to support the creation of an independent international investigation into violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in Yemen since the start of the current conflict. They noted that Yemen is now enduring the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with at least seven million people on the brink of famine and hundreds of thousands suffering from cholera. They added that this crisis is manmade, with the war deepening and exacerbating the humanitarian situation in the Middle East's poorest country, and both sides impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid. As the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross said at the end of his visit to Yemen in July 2017, "unless the warring parties improve their respect of the laws of war, I am afraid we must expect more epidemics in the future."

The NGOs' joint statement went on: "Since March 2015, at least 5,110 civilians have been killed and at least 8,719 wounded in the armed conflict, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law by parties to the conflict have continued to be committed with impunity. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition has conducted scores of unlawful airstrikes, some of which may amount to war crimes, that have killed thousands of civilians and hit schools, hospitals, markets, and homes. The Houthi armed group and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh have fired weapons indiscriminately into populated areas in Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia and used explosive weapons with wide-scale effects in cities such as Taiz and Aden, killing and maiming scores in attacks that may amount to war crimes.

"Both sides have harassed, arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared Yemeni activists, human rights defenders and journalists, shrinking the space for civil society groups and the media to operate throughout the country. The number of the 'missing' is also growing: Houthi-Saleh forces, forces affiliated with the Yemeni government of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, and the United Arab Emirates and UAE-backed Yemeni forces have arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared hundreds, denying family members access to their loved ones or even information on the fate of those detained. Parties to the conflict are also recruiting and deploying child soldiers. Both sides have used widely banned weapons that can endanger civilians long after a conflict ends. The Saudi-led coalition has used at least seven types of cluster munitions, and the Houthi-Saleh side has laid antipersonnel landmines in a number of Yemeni governorates.

"In September 2015, the Human Rights Council called on the Yemeni government, with support from the OHCHR, 'to ensure the effective investigation, with a view to ending impunity, into all cases of violations and abuse of human rights and of violations of international humanitarian law'. In September 2016, the Council strengthened the mandate of the OHCHR, requesting the High Commissioner 'to allocate additional international human rights experts to the Office of the High Commissioner in Yemen to complement the investigatory work of the national commission, while collecting and preserving information to establish the facts and circumstances

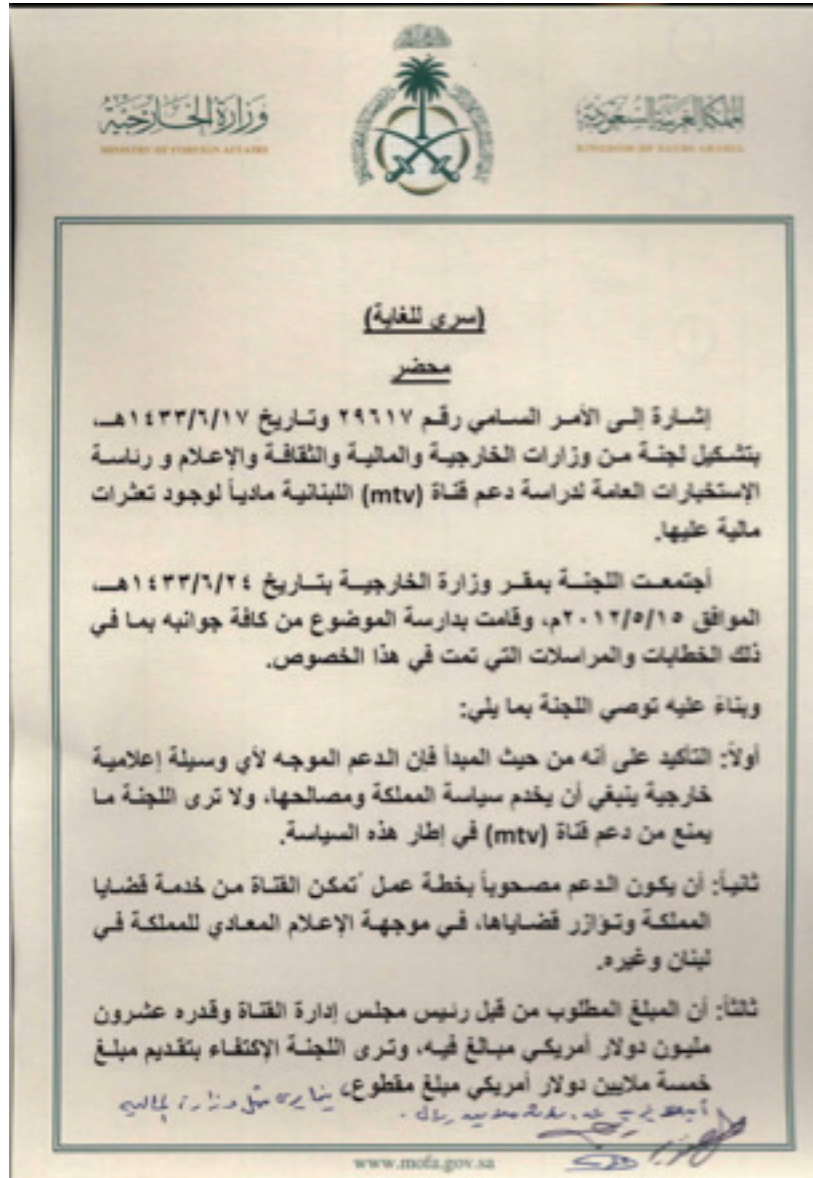
of alleged violations and abuses’.

“While the 2016 resolution sought to strengthen the OHCHR presence in Yemen, this proved difficult in practice. The Houthi-Saleh side publicly refused to cooperate with the Yemeni national commission or OHCHR in its capacity implementing the resolution. In March 2017, the Deputy High Commissioner expressed concerns about the National Commission, noting it has failed ‘to comply with internationally recognised standards of methodology and impartiality’, and has ‘yet to clarify how its work could facilitate viable mechanisms of accountability’. The Saudi-led coalition’s investigative mechanism (JIAT) has also failed to conduct credible investigations into alleged violations and abuses. The coalition has called into question its purported commitment to accountability with continued blanket denials of violations and abuses documented by a number of credible sources. In 2016 Saudi Arabia threatened to withdraw funding from critical UN programs if the Secretary-General did not remove the coalition from his annual ‘list of shame’ for violations against children.”

For two years, the High Commissioner called for and continues to call for an independent international investigation. ALQST and its 58 co-signatories argued that the victims of abuses in Yemen could not afford to wait longer for credible investigations to be undertaken and therefore called on the Human Rights Council to establish, during its thirty-sixth session, an independent international inquiry to investigate alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. The inquiry, they said, should be given the mandate to establish the facts and circumstances, and to collect and preserve evidence of, and clarify responsibility for, alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, with a view to ending impunity and providing accountability.

On **August 29**, ALQST published documents from WikiLeaks and other sources showing how the Saudi authorities try to maintain the country’s international reputation while resisting freedom of speech at home. The Saudi authorities have three ways of suppressing free speech: neutralisation, containment and confrontation.

Their first step in dealing with negative press is to 'neutralise' it – a term frequently used in Saudi diplomatic cables brought to light by WikiLeaks. There are individual journalists and often struggling media institutions whose silence and co-operation can be bought. They are not expected to change their policy in support of the Saudi regime, but are instructed to



refrain from publishing criticism of the kingdom. The Saudi foreign ministry pays close attention to what is published about the kingdom in the international forum and Saudi embassies around the world play a major role in maintaining pro-Saudi propaganda, because they are familiar with their local media and are well placed to monitor them and make appropriate suggestions to the Saudi government.

‘Containment’ involves not only silencing and neutralising media targets but also paying them to praise the Saudi regime and attack its critics. In 2012 MTV, the troubled Lebanese network founded by Michael el-Murr, received a \$2 million bailout authorised by the late King Abdullah on the condition that it would “promote the kingdom’s policies and interests”. After the fall of Mubarak in Egypt, and at the height of the Arab Spring in 2011, the Saudi authorities felt that media coverage was being driven by public opinion instead of driving public opinion as it used to, and urged the Information Ministry sought to offer financial support to satellite TV channels and other influential media in the region, to win them over and bolster ties between their managers and the kingdom. Another tactic the kingdom uses is to buy media influence through subscriptions. In Canada two Arabic-language newspapers were granted \$36,000 in subscription fees each for five years to counter hostile media in Toronto. Huge amounts of money have also been paid in this way to publications in Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, the UAE and others.

When ‘neutralisation’ and ‘containment’ fail, the kingdom moves on to ‘confrontation’. In 2010, for example, after failing to block the Iranian news network Al-Alam, the Saudi authorities used their large stake in a joint Arab communications satellite to stop it transmitting Al-Alam. There is not an isolated example. Al Jazeera, the Arab world’s most popular news channel, funded by Qatar, found itself at the centre of the 2017 Gulf crisis between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Saudi Arabia and its allies demanded that Qatar close down Al Jazeera, because it supported the Qatari position and was winning Qatar international support. The Saudis saw the channel as promoting the Qatari viewpoint against their own, and once again wanted to suppress free speech and freedom of expression.

The WikiLeaks documents clearly showed how much money and diplomatic

effort the Saudi authorities put into misleading public opinion abroad and controlling what is said about Saudi Arabia. ALQST has pointed out many times the world’s ignorance of the Saudi authorities repeated violations of human rights, the vehemence with which they oppose free speech for their own citizens, and the way it puts activists on trial for “damaging the kingdom’s reputation”. Its war on free expression, and its horror of free speech,

both at home and abroad are now clear for all to see, as its it utter disregard for fundamental human rights. ALQST reminds the Saudi authorities that must respect human rights and stop these systematic campaigns, both internal and external, in what should be seen as a war on free speech.

On **September 10**, ALQST received confirmation that Dr Salman Al-Awda had been arrested because of a tweet that the Saudi authorities thought showed he was pleased about the prospect of Gulf reconciliation and praised God for the ending of the Gulf crisis. Dr Awda was forcibly disappeared and was not allowed phone calls or visits to him until after a campaign on social media asking about his health, following reports to ALQST from witnesses who had seen him in hospital. The campaign forced the authorities to provide information about Dr Awda's situation, and they published a bulletin on his health by sending government officials to visit him; they stated that he had gone to hospital because of high blood pressure while in prison. After that the authorities also allowed his family to visit him.



Arrests continued throughout **September**, covering leading human rights defenders and reformers as well as writers, journalists, clerics, and broadcasters. ALQST was able to confirm some of the names of those arrested but others have not yet been confirmed for certain because of Saudi authorities' policy of intimidation, which makes friends and relatives fearful to speak. Examples of this are that Dr Khalid al-Awda, brother of Dr Salman al-Awda, was arrested for publishing news of his brother's arrest, and Al-Abbas bin Hassan Farhan al-Maliki was arrested for publicising his father's arrest. Others confirmed as having being arrested in September include human rights activists Issa al-Hamed and Abdulaziz al-Shubaily, the last two members of ACPRA to be arrested; Dr Mustafa Al-Hassan, who was released on February 20, 2018 for health reasons; economist Essam Al-Zamel; reformist writer Dr Abdullah al-Maliki; and Dr Awad al-Qarni, who was also denied phone calls and visits for a time and visited by the officials, and was found to have lost 25 kg in weight. **Table 1 on pages 63** lists

some of those hundreds detained during waves of arrests that swept up hundreds of princes, businessmen, officials and other influential figures.

On **September 26**, following huge pressures from the community and hu-



man rights activists, the Saudi authorities lifted their ban on women driving. The decrees allowing women to drive will come into effect in mid-2018.

On **November 1**, the Saudi authorities have issued the new Law on Combating Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing. ALQST's analysis was that the new Law contains the same flaws as its predecessor, published in December 2013, and follows the same basic approach. (For more details see the section below on **pages 27**, "The war on terror and the new Counter-terrorism Law".)

On **November 2**, ALQST received news of the death of prisoner Mulhi Al-Hanbashi after he was tortured in Jizan Prison and went on hunger strike, which the authorities ignored. ALQST called for an urgent investigation into the matter, but the authorities have done nothing.

On **November 9**, Saudi authorities conducted a series of raids and searches of the homes, offices and farms of reformists including Dr Salman al-Awda.

On **November 30**, UN human rights experts called for the release of Jaber al-Amri and condemned the widespread use of arbitrary detention in Saudi Arabia.

On **December 12**, former judge and lawyer Sulaiman al-Rashudi, 82, was

released from prison in Riyadh after spending five years in jail because of his opinions. Rashudi was born in 1937, and the last time he was arrest

ed was in 2012, hours after delivering a lecture about demonstrations not being prohibited in Islam. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and a further 15-year travel ban.

On **December 23**, Mohammed bin Dulaim al-Qahtani complained about poor nutrition and health conditions in prison. He suffers heart problems, and had recently complained of an increased heart rate, but no attention was paid to his state of health.

The war on terror and the new Counter-terrorism Law

The Saudi authorities deliberately blur what should be a clear distinction between, on the one hand, peaceful, lawful means of expressing one's views and, on the other, terrorism. They exploit what they call a "war on terrorism" to make war on freedom and silence society, and ALQST has previously published a detailed report on this entitled "War on Terror or War on Freedom?" The authorities include political and human rights work within their definition of terrorism, as set out in the Law on Combating Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing ("the Counter-terrorism Law"), and they try political and human rights activists in the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC) in Riyadh, which was established to hear cases involving violence. All of the members of ACPRA, as well as Waleed Abu al-Khair, Nazeer al-Majed and members of the Union of Human Rights, have been tried in the SCC.

On November 1, 2017 the Saudi authorities issued a new Law on Combating Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing, updating the previous Counter-terrorism Law of December 27, 2013. While the new Law has expanded from 41 Articles to 96, including a whole new Chapter of 27 Articles dealing with punishments, ALQST's conclusion from a close analysis of the new Law is that it contains the same flaws as its predecessor and follows the same basic approach. The Law contains Articles that place restrictions on fundamental freedoms, and has been framed in general, over-broad and imprecise terms. As a result, it lacks legal validity, for which its wording would have to be precise and specific and not infringe human rights.

The new Law's provisions, however, restrict freedom of expression and criminalise acts unconnected with terrorism. They allow the State Security apparatus and the Public Prosecutor's office to abuse the Law, and enable them to exploit it by applying it in situations where there is no violence or danger. This frees their hands to target activists and impose restrictions on peaceful opponents and reformers, and indeed anyone whose views differ from those of the authorities. This had already been happening since the original Counter-terrorism Law was introduced, from the trial of human rights defender Waleed Abu al-Khair up to the sentencing of human rights defender Abdulaziz al-Shubaily.

The powers of the State Security Presidency should not have been expanded at the expense of judicial oversight. There should have been respect for due process of law. The standards and criteria for fair trials should not have been set aside. The Law should have protected the rights of suspects with regard to search and arrest procedures and the place of detention and their right not to be subjected to mistreatment and torture, and guaranteed their rights to legal counsel, to confront witnesses and to be brought promptly before a judge.

The definition of a terrorist crime given in Chapter 1 of the Law is overly broad and vague, making it easy to construe any peaceful act as a terrorist crime. The definition is legally defective because of the unjustified use of ambiguous terms like “disrupting public order”, “undermining the security of the community and the stability of the State”, “endangering national unity” and “obstructing the basic ruling system”. There is no stipulation that these things must be linked with an act of violence to be classed as terrorism, meaning that peaceful acts may clearly be included. The phrase “harming the reputation and status of the State” has been deleted from the definition of terrorism, which is one positive amendment to the Law, but unfortunately Article 30, the first in the Chapter on punishments, again classifies “portraying the King and Crown Prince in any way that brings religion and justice into disrepute” as a terrorist crime.

Article 3 likewise criminalises a group of actions that may not necessarily be violent, such as “changing the system of rule”, “obstructing the basic ruling system or provisions thereof” and “inducing the State to do or abstain from doing any act”... These cannot be regarded as terrorist acts if they are not characterised by violence. The Law does not specify that a terrorist act involve “the accused using lethal or dangerous material means, or taking hostages”, which the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism has said are the defining elements of a terrorist act.

Article 10 also raises concerns for freedom of movement and the guarantee of due process of law, as it grants the State Security Presidency powers to impose travel bans without informing the subjects of such bans of the measures taken against them. Article 15 gives police officers or military personnel authorisation to use force “in accordance with regulations laid down

in the Law”, except that no such regulations are mentioned.

Article 19, meanwhile, effectively removes the upper limit on the length of time for which a person may be held in custody. This can be up to 12 months solely on the authority of the Public Prosecutor’s Office, and the Public Prosecutor can then apply to the competent court for an extension with no upper limit specified. This clearly contravenes the standards for fair trial, which require defendants to be brought promptly before a judge. The Law allows suspects to be held for long periods in solitary confinement, thus providing cover for torture and mistreatment and conflicting with Saudi Arabia’s international obligations, in particular the UN Convention Against Torture, to which the kingdom acceded in 1997. Article 20 prevents detainees from seeking legal counsel or representation, a blatant and completely unjustifiable violation of their rights that inevitably deprives detainees of any means of challenging the legality of their detention.

Article 27 prevents defendants from confronting witnesses and cross-examining experts, which not only violates an established right of defendants but also contradicts the Supreme Judicial Council’s Letter No. 1361 of October 19, 2017, which said “it is the right of those against whom evidence is given to know the identity of the witness, so that any failure to treat him justly may be made apparent, as laid down in law.”

The Law also applies the death penalty for crimes falling short of capital offences. Articles 40 and 41 state that the court may sentence to death “anyone who kidnaps or detains a person or threatens to do so in execution of a terrorist crime” and likewise “anyone who seizes a means of public transport or threatens to do so in execution of a terrorist crime” whenever any such action is accompanied by the use or declaration of either weapons or explosives. The Law does not clearly and explicitly prohibit torture.

And so ALQST maintains that the new Counter-terrorism Law is flawed and not fit for purpose as a legal instrument, because of its ambiguity and lack of specificity in several Articles, as well as critical omissions in others. Article 15, for example, does not specify the rules governing the use of force when making arrests. The Law also allows the authorities to use it to suppress freedoms and prevent people expressing their views, as had already

happened with the previous version of the Law, under which human rights activists were put on trial. Furthermore, the Law has included in the definition of terrorism peaceful civic actions, such as attempting to dissuade the authorities from taking a decision, or criticising the King and Crown Prince. Moreover, the Law defines as terrorist acts non-violent actions, and permits the death penalty for crimes that fall short of capital offences. ALQST calls on the authorities to respect human rights and freedoms, and endorses the words of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism when he said the official Saudi definition of terrorism “does not comply with international human rights standards” and “the Saudi authorities must not use the war on terrorism to suppress freedom of expression”.

Human rights defenders

Many of the political detainees in Saudi Arabia are known to be prisoners of conscience. Many of them were swept up in the authorities’ so-called War on Terror, but were in fact arrested for their peacefully held and expressed political or religious views, including calls for social reform or in defence of human rights. They are tried in the Specialised Criminal Court, which is neither legitimate nor independent of the government, and was set up for the purpose of trying terrorism cases. Most human rights defenders are also charged and found guilty under the Counter-terrorism Law.

Today the majority of Saudi Arabia’s human rights activists are either in prison, on trial, or being subjected to intense harassment as victims of an unrelenting crackdown on any form of criticism or dissent, however peaceful, or any other exercise of the right of free speech.

Saudi prisons ¹

The main features of most Saudi prisons are overcrowding, a proliferation of crime and drugs, and medical and administrative neglect. During 2017 ALQST documented a number of incidents in Saudi jails, the most shocking being the torture of several prisoners for posting videos on social media. ALQST learned of a number of prisoners being moved to isolation cells and subjected to beatings and torture after recording and posting videos of things they had witnessed in prison.

In their videos prisoners talked about the black market operating inside prisons, and the way the authorities allow prohibited items into the prison only to confiscate them later. They talked about the beatings, torture and humiliation they had undergone, and the lack of any means of appealing to higher authorities or lodging complaints against their abusers. They talked about the absence of human rights, and said they had never seen any of the government or quasi-government bodies that are supposed to deal with human rights. They have talked about administrative problems like lost documents and missing paperwork, and other hardships such as water shortages and the non-delivery of their clothes and personal items. They also mentioned health problems and failures to provide medical treatment; one prisoner told of being prevented from visiting his mother who had thrombosis.

Some of these videos were recorded at the time the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism was visiting Saudi Arabia. The Special Rapporteur noted after his visit that the authorities had prevented him, the international inspector, from going into several of the places he had asked to visit, and from meeting a number of activists he had asked to meet. He criticised the Saudi authorities' use of terrorism as a pretext for wide-scale violations of human rights, and criticised the Saudi Counter-terrorism Law for categorising civil action and peaceful protest as terrorist actions. Some Saudi newspapers commented that the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism didn't know exactly what terrorism meant.

¹Some of the details in this section have not been updated since last year's report. There may have been some slight changes, but they are not recorded here because of the paucity of information from sources inside the prisons.

In another incident, ALQST learned of the death of prisoner A.M.H. in a section of Buraidah Prison, and of a number of prisoners being interrogated after ALQST published a report about the spread of tuberculosis in Saudi

jails, the resulting official announcements and visits to prisons, and the authorities' reluctance to tackle the problem and protect prisoners' health.

ALQST has reported previously that Saudi prisons are plagued by crime, drugs, torture and mistreatment, inadequate healthcare and maladministration. It has also reported on a number of prisoners' deaths arising from mismanagement leading to fights in which innocent lives have been lost, or from disease and poor healthcare. It has likewise published accounts of the administrative difficulties created for prisoners who have come to the end of their custodial sentences but are not released because, the authorities claim, their paperwork has gone astray. It has also reported on corruption and bribery within the prison system and the extortion of money from prisoners as payment for banned items that are smuggled in or even for permitted items, or in order to secure certain services or rights.

Singling out prisoners for beatings, torture and solitary confinement for recording and uploading videos that illustrate their sufferings is further evidence, on top of the authorities' refusal to allow the UN Special Rapporteur to visit certain prisons, and numerous testimonies that ALQST and others have documented and published from time to time, of the poor conditions in Saudi prisons. It further highlights the Saudi authorities' lack of seriousness about protecting prisoners' lives and dignity and their eagerness to make cosmetic improvements in a few cell blocks for use as model prisons to show visitors who don't understand the purpose of prison visiting and let the authorities decide the time and place of visits, so that they will write about these carefully contrived appearances without realising what really goes on deep inside Saudi jails.

ALQST would like to remind the Saudi authorities that activists are no longer the only ones monitoring and documenting human rights violations. What these prisoners have done by posting their videos is part of the work of protecting and promoting human rights. The lack of freedom to undertake civil and human rights activity within Saudi Arabia means

that prisoners and victims of abuse are now themselves documenting and publicising the things they are suffering, in a bold and pioneering and move. The authorities should be trying to contain it by tackling the problems being documented rather than oppressing people further, as they continue to do with human rights activists.

The situation in Saudi prisons varies from one institution to another, and changes from time to time, as a result of poor management and weak oversight. However the features detailed in this report are common if not typical of the system. Broadly, there are two types of prison in Saudi Arabia – the special prisons of the Mabatheth (General Investigations Directorate) and the general prisons of the Ministry of Interior’s General Directorate of Prisons – as well as juvenile institutions, for boys aged 7-18 and for girls and young women up to the age of 30, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

1 – The Mabatheth’s special prisons

In recent years some new Mabatheth prisons have been opened and others expanded. These prisons are used for the detention of suspects in so-called “terrorist” cases, cases relating to the security of the ruling family and leading figures in the regime, and cases concerning political parties, groups, organisations, cell formations and so on.

All suspects in such cases are held in these prisons, which are notorious for close surveillance, physical and psychological torture, and extracting forced confessions. They are financially and administratively separate from the prisons of the General Directorate of Prisons, and can therefore offer “full board” (three meals a day), unlike the other prisons, and on the whole better medical care – sick prisoners are sometimes moved to private hospitals.

A Mabatheth prison is usually divided into a number of sections, each with a number of individual locked rooms with their own television and toilet. Various local and international TV channels are available, as well as local free-to-air and subscription sports channels.

Inmates are allowed to call a limited number of pre-set phone numbers twice a month. Each inmate has a set time when he is taken, handcuffed,

shackled and blindfolded, to the place where the phone is located, and he picks up the phone and dials one of the names stored in it. The duration of each person's call depends on how much time the prison administration grants him, but is usually ten minutes every two weeks.

Prisoners are supposed to be allowed outdoors for half an hour twice a week, but this is subject to the ruling of the prison administration and rarely happens, varying from section to section and even from room to room.

The food in political prisons is better than in criminal prisons and is delivered to each room. A limited range of local newspapers is provided sporadically to each room, but again this varies from one prison to another.

Prisoners can sometimes purchase toiletries, and they all wear prison uniforms. They are not allowed to bring their own clothes or personal effects into the prison. There are normally fewer hygiene problems in political prisons than in others, and drug addicts are housed separately from other inmates. The administration determines which category of inmate is allocated to each room, and it is exceptionally difficult for a prisoner to say what kind of person he wants to share a room with. There are also solitary confinement cells for punishment.

2 – General prisons, run by the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Prisons

The General Directorate of Prisons runs two types of facility: general prisons and penitentiaries. General prisons are for inmates serving prison terms for common law or civil offences, as well as suspects in all kinds of criminal and civil cases, giving them a tough time before and during their trials. Once sentenced they are transferred to the second type of facility, a penitentiary.

Penitentiaries are for those who have been sentenced by the courts. They categorise and house prisoners according to their crimes,

which may include drug use or trafficking, murder, theft, armed robbery, rape, counterfeiting, embezzlement, fraud, alcohol consumption, use of stimulants, lack of respect for parents, adultery, sodomy etc.

This class of prison is typically characterised by:

1 – Dim, poorly ventilated and dilapidated buildings with poor provision of basic services such as toilets and washing facilities, mattresses and bedding. Bathrooms each serve 15-20 prisoners on average, and most of them have no shower. Overcrowding may sometimes lead to prisoners having to sleep in the toilets. Sometimes inmates of general prisons are placed in solitary confinement in dirty toilets with no air conditioning or ventilation.

2 – Malnutrition as a result of poor-quality and sometimes rotten food, served in inadequate amounts. An employee of the catering contractors at one prison told an activist that the amount they spent to provide three meals a day was eight riyals (\$2.15; £1.70) per prisoner, although the Finance Ministry was paying them over fifty riyals (\$13.30; £10.60).

3 – Poor medical care and hygiene practices, leading to the spread of scabies, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. General prisons provide a low standard of medical treatment through a modest clinic consisting of two rooms and a pharmacy with one general practitioner, who is usually unable to see all the patients needing attention during his eight-hour shift. Most prison clinics cannot measure patients' blood sugar levels, lacking even the simple home devices that every diabetic person owns. Medication for high blood pressure and diabetes is not always available, obliging inmates to obtain supplies from outside the prison at their own expense.

Some prisons in large cities have a dental clinic operating for about four hours one morning a week, but often the dentist doesn't come because of other commitments.

In the worst cases, prisons may transfer sick prisoners, shackled and handcuffed, to the local government hospital. Prisons also have so-called quarantine units where they bring together all their prisoners with infectious diseases like scabies, tuberculosis and AIDS, where their conditions and

treatment generally are degrading and indeed dangerous. Most prisons and penitentiaries do not have ambulances; some transport patients in minibuses without seats, wrapped in a blanket.

4 – Gross administrative negligence, of which these are a few examples:

4.1 “Tatweef” (literally, walking round in a circle) is what prisoners call it when someone has completed his sentence and is made to go a few more laps of months or even years without being released. Some have done tatweef for over a year because their files went missing, or the relevant department failed to carry out some action, or the official concerned wasn’t paying attention, or the prisoner had no lawyer or relatives to keep pressing for his release, or some other such excuse. It is a scandal that people’s lives can be wasted as a result of such bureaucratic negligence.

4.2 There are many cases where prisoners have repeatedly failed to attend court hearings or missed hospital appointments, supposedly for lack of transport. For example, one penitentiary with thousands of prisoners has just three six-seater minibuses (in which sick patients are carried together even when they are infectious) and one 12-seater bus, which is clearly inadequate to cover the prisoners’ transport needs. Sometimes, even when there is a vehicle, there is no escort officer available to guard the prisoner, and so he is prevented from attending court hearings that may decide his fate. He may even be sentenced in his absence even though, since he is in a government prison, there should be no reason for him not to attend. The situation is similar in other prisons too.

4.3 The lack of appropriate facilities for family visits means that some prisoners are prevented from seeing their families for years on end, and some refuse to let their families visit them because of the appalling way in which visitors, especially women, are treated.

5 – The impunity with which individual prison officers can mistreat prisoners.

6 – The widespread availability of drugs of all kinds, including marijuana, narcotics and alcohol, sometimes supplied by prison staff.

Prison regimes vary from place to place, and what is banned in one institution may be permitted in another, for example in the matter of newspapers or bringing in books, food and other items from outside. But what Saudi

prisons all have in common is that they are dirty, poorly ventilated and badly maintained.

Criminal prisons are divided into wings according to the nature of the crimes committed. On each wing there is a prisoner responsible for communication between the inmates and prison administration, and for resolving disputes between prisoners. The wing consists of a number of rooms with an open area between them.

There are a number of phones fixed to the wall inside the section, and inmates have to use prepaid phone cards to use them, at a mobile rate of about 0.42 riyals (\$0.12; £0.10) per minute.

The prisons administration in each region contracts with private companies to provide the catering in prisons. Employees of the companies agree that the food is of bad quality and poorly cooked. There is a main dish only once a week, and roughly three times a week there is only one meal, accompanied by a piece of fruit. Each room takes its share of the food in containers, which remain in the room throughout the day.

There is a so-called “grocery” system whereby a company contracts with the Directorate of Prisons as a whole to offer goods to prisoners at two to three times the price on the outside, except for cigarettes, which are usually sold at the normal price. Orders are placed by each group and paid for, and a few days later the goods are delivered. For personal hygiene, prisoners buy their own shaving materials and soap, and on each wing there is usually a prisoner who temporarily takes on the job of barber, in return for some material consideration. There are shared toilets on each wing.

In general prisons, TV facilities vary according to the management. Usually only Saudi channels are available, together with Al-Majd satellite channel and channels covering the Saudi football league. The TV set is located within the wing for communal viewing.

Visiting takes place two days a week, one day for men and one for women visitors. Visiting areas vary according to the layout of the prison. Some have small private rooms with a glass screen between the prisoner and the

visitor, while others have one large area with all the inmates along one side and families along the other, and a space between them down the middle sectioned off by steel cables. Only first-degree relatives (parents, siblings and children) are allowed to visit.

Criminal prisons are rife with drugs of all kinds. Both verbal and physical violence among prisoners is common, as is a general lack of cleanliness. The lock-up cells are mostly used for individuals identified as troublemakers for disobeying orders or starting fights.

Sometimes prisoners of conscience are allocated to these general institutions instead of political prisons. Dr Abdullah al-Hamed, Waleed Abu al-Khair, Dr Mohammed al-Qahtani, Fawzan al-Harbi, Wajdi Ghazzawi and Zuhair Kutbi are just a few of the prisoners of conscience who have been moved around the wings for drug traffickers, murderers and so on.

A prisoner of conscience may be placed in an ordinary prison as a deliberate insult, and for fear that his ideas might spread to other political prisoners. Or he may be placed in a political prison so that his file can be passed to the Mabatheth and he can be psychologically or maybe physically tortured, possibly with the aim of securing a quick surrender to lessen the public outcry over his detention, or a confession to crimes he didn't commit in order to smear his public reputation and pervert his case away from the real issue.

3 – Young women's care institutions (prisons for girls and young women under 30 years of age, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs)

The way inmates are treated in young women's care homes varies from one facility to another. What they have in common is poor regulation and weak oversight by the authorities, which means that much depends on the approach and attitude of staff members. From studying a number of cases it appears that the authorities' actions tend to make matters worse for

the young women rather than trying to improve their situation. There are cases where young women are publicly shamed by being toured around schools and universities to tell their stories, or allowed to visit girls outside the institution to learn lessons from hearing their stories. They may receive excessive punishments, for example confinement in an isolation cell for indiscipline. Furthermore, they may be denied their basic rights in ways completely unrelated to their crime, such as being denied the right to have the paternity of children born outside marriage recognised until after the marriage has taken place.

The administrative structure of most of these institutions consists of a director and two assistant directors, social care and psychology specialists, administrative workers and three superintendents working around the clock in shifts. It is the superintendents who have most contact and interaction with the inmates, but unfortunately they also have the least training and expertise. There have been numerous cases where superintendents' actions, whether in handling everyday matters or dealing with medical and other emergencies, have been downright dangerous. They have forced girls to do their own jobs, such as laundry, cooking and cleaning, and punished girls who refused by putting them in solitary confinement. The girls are also brutalised by being beaten, humiliated, deprived of food, and made to stand in the sun for long periods.

The director of the young women's care home in Mecca, Hafsa Shu'aib, has said that suicide attempts among inmates are now a regular occurrence. She emphasised, however, that the home's specialist staff and care workers are able to recognise the warning signs and intervene in time to save the situation in most cases.

Ms Shu'aib's statement came a few days after one of the inmates of the institution had committed suicide. The National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) in Mecca held the institution responsible, calling for those who had caused the young woman's death to be put on trial. The home's director told Al Watan newspaper that the reason for so many suicide attempts among the inmates was attention-seeking and a desire for more interest to be shown in them. She said the recent suicide had been the first of its kind, and there had never been a case of suicide at the home before.

In actual fact such cases occur regularly, and are recorded by the government's own human rights body, the NSHR, because of the poor conditions in these institutions.

The building itself is dilapidated and contains a number of cells. It operates as a prison in which detainees, most of them victims of violence, have no freedom of action. Instead of the perpetrators of the violence being punished, these young women are incarcerated on the pretext that they are being protected, and they are denied their basic rights. They do not leave the care-prison until their male guardian (father, husband or brother), who may be the person who previously beat them, agrees to take charge of them. A woman may remain in the home until the day she dies, or the management may marry her off to a man of their choosing.

The inmates of the young women's care institution in Mecca lodged a complaint with the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, which submitted a report to the regional authorities containing one hundred individual complaints from the young women. The main issues they raised about the home were: malnutrition, mistreatment and brutality, the use of solitary confinement, denigration and verbal abuse, and being forced to clean the rooms and toilets.

The report noted the inmates' complaints about the institution's marriage programme, which in most cases failed because of its ad hoc and arbitrary nature, resulting in some of the women involved returning to the institution only a short time later, as the management resorted – according to the inmates' evidence to the investigators – to marrying them off to elderly men and men with deformities.

The daily routine in some homes includes some education and vocational training, but the inmates desperately need more of this, and better preparation for life in the world outside, especially those who have been in the home for a long time and are about to leave it. Girls may be subjected to numerous forms of abuse, including sexual harassment during inspections, for example, but weak management makes it extremely difficult for inmates to complain, and allows supervisors to get away without punishment.

4 – Social supervision homes (prisons for boys aged 7 to 18, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs)

Chaos reigns, by and large, in these institutions for young male offenders. No consideration is given to their young age, and in most of the homes they

are subjected to beatings and various forms of torture. Harsh punishment has come to be salient feature of these institutions. Relatives of the boys have complained of seeing their children whipped in front of them by the supervisors during visiting times, and the children are not allowed to sit with their families and talk to them in private.

One mother, whom we will identify only as N.Q., has told ALQST how painful it is for her, when she goes to visit her child, to see him emaciated and terrified, sitting beside her in a large communal lounge full of other prisoners and their families, all of them together in the presence of the supervisors. She says she is unable to talk alone with her child, who tells her secretly that he is being beaten and tortured, and cannot speak out or complain for fear of the supervisors present in the visiting room, who might descend on him and give him a sound beating in full view of his mother.

Torture persists in a climate of impunity

Prisons in Saudi Arabia operate under a cloak of secrecy and isolation. This applies to both the penitentiaries of the General Directorate of Prisons and the political prisons of the Mabaheth (General Investigations Directorate). No organisation, international agency or media representative is allowed to visit and inspect them other than by arrangement with the Saudi authorities. On the few occasions when such visits have been granted, they have been to pre-prepared wings of the prison, and with official escorts from the Mabaheth or prison administration. No one has been able to make an independent visit or interview prisoners in private.

There are persistent claims of systematic torture in several prisons, particularly those of the Mabaheth, and in interrogation centres. Witnesses report torture taking place in rooms specially equipped with torture instruments, which indicates that torture is a routine matter in those prisons, as was documented in a report on torture by Dr Mohsen al-Awaji. Video footage and photographs of horrendous and degrading torture have been smuggled out of a number of prisons, and several prisoners who have been released continue to suffer as a result of permanent disabilities sustained through torture while in prison.

Numerous reports bear witness to the fact that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are commonly practised in prisons and detention centres in Saudi Arabia. The judiciary is not independent. Courts routinely issue verdicts based on confessions allegedly made under duress, without attempting to investigate the allegations. ALQST has documentary evidence of a Saudi judge ordering a defendant to be re-interrogated under torture when the evidence against him was initially too weak. There is no independent monitoring of prisons and detention centres, and no effective mechanism for making complaints about torture. Civil society organisations and human rights defenders who dare to speak out against torture are dealt with harshly by the government and subjected to what seem to be reprisals for their human rights work, including arbitrary arrest and lengthy prison terms.

Saudi Arabia’s legal obligations with regard to torture

Torture is a crime under international law. It is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a state has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited.

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, states:

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Subsequent to the adoption of the Universal Declaration, a number of legally binding human rights treaties were developed to supplement the basic principles, each one with a Committee of experts to monitor implementation by States Parties. The treaty dealing with torture is the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984. Article 1 of the Convention defines “torture” to mean:

“any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.”

States Parties to the Convention are obliged to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture, and to ensure that all acts of torture are offences under its criminal law, punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account their grave nature.

Each State Party must keep under systematic review methods of interrogation and arrangements for the custody and treatment of anyone arrested, detained or imprisoned, with a view to preventing any cases of torture; and it must carry out a prompt, effective and impartial investigation wherever there is reason to believe an act of torture has been committed. It must also ensure that any individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture has the right to complain, and to have his case promptly and impartially examined. Steps must be taken to ensure that the complainant and witnesses are fully protected, and that the victim of an act of torture obtains redress, fair and adequate compensation, and as full rehabilitation as possible, and that in the event of the death of the victim as a result of torture, his dependants are entitled to compensation.

Saudi Arabia ratified the Convention in 1997 but made reservations to Article 20 and paragraph (1) of Article 30, as follows:

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not recognise the jurisdiction of the Committee as provided for in Article 20” of the Convention, which enables the Committee against Torture to make a confidential inquiry into information that appears to it to indicate that torture is being systematically practised in the territory of a State Party; and

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 30” of the Convention, which allows for disputes on the interpretation or application of the Convention to be submitted to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice.

In addition, Saudi Arabia has not yet signed or ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2002, the objective of which is “to establish a system of regular visits undertaken by independent international and national bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. However, at the UN Committee against Torture’s 57th session, in April 2016 in Geneva, the Saudi delegation announced that the kingdom was considering ratification of the Optional Protocol and the lifting of its reservation to Article 20 of the Convention.

Saudi Arabia is also bound by the Arab Charter on Human Rights, adopted by the League of Arab States in 1994 and ratified by Saudi Arabia in 2009. The Charter seeks to promote universal human rights in the Arab region, reaffirming principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam. With regard to torture, Article 8 states:

“No one shall be subjected to physical or psychological torture or to cruel, degrading, humiliating or inhuman treatment. Each State Party shall protect every individual subject to its jurisdiction from such practices and shall take effective measures to prevent them. The commission of, or participation in, such acts shall be regarded as crimes punishable by law and not subject to any statute of limitations. Each State Party shall guarantee in its legal system redress for any victim of torture and the right to rehabilitation and compensation.”

Article 23 obliges State Parties to provide victims of such violations with effective remedy.

Breaches of the Convention by the Saudi authorities

Under international pressure, the Saudi authorities have announced some legislative and administrative reforms of the kingdom’s judicial system, but many glaring shortcomings remain, and many of the safeguards written into its domestic laws are widely disregarded in practice. When making its long-overdue periodic report to the Committee against Torture in Geneva in 2016, the kingdom avoided addressing several of the Committee’s outstanding concerns, and refused to answer many of its requests for data and detailed information.

In its report, Saudi Arabia stated that “torture is a criminal offence, punishable under the provisions of the Islamic Sharia, and the laws of the Kingdom forbid all forms of torture”. However, Saudi legislation does not define the crime of torture in a manner consistent with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and the kingdom’s Basic Law has still not been amended

as required to incorporate an absolute prohibition of torture.

ALQST has documentary evidence of a judge ordering a murder suspect to be tortured in December 2014. When the case first came to court there was evidence against the defendant that the judge found strong but inconclusive, and the defendant, who had been confused and given inconsistent statements, persisted in contesting the charge laid against him. The judge ordered the case to be re-investigated, using torture in an attempt to extract a confession.

Failure to maintain fundamental safeguards

In most countries there are basic procedures and protocols in place in the criminal justice system that help ensure that abuses do not and cannot occur, such as the right of detainees to legal counsel; the right to contact a family member or other person of their choice to inform them of their arrest and whereabouts; the right to be notified promptly of the reason for their detention and to receive assistance with language translation and interpretation; the right to confidential communication between lawyers and clients; the right to have prompt access to independent medical assistance; and the right to appear promptly before a judge with the power to order their release.

Although the 2013 Law of Criminal Procedure claims to afford all detainees legal safeguards against torture, many of these rights are frequently neglected or denied, and persons arrested are not routinely informed of their rights. Investigators may at their discretion bar accused persons from having contact with other prisoners or detainees, or being visited by anyone other than their lawyers or legal representatives, for up to sixty days. Detainees can be held without charge for up to six months, and in practice are often held for much longer. There are particular concerns about the frequent violation of safeguards and lack of monitoring in the detention facilities of the Mabaheth, the Ministry of Interior's General Investigation Directorate, where most of those held are kept in pre-trial detention for prolonged periods of time.

An important safeguard against torture and abuse is independent monitoring of detention centres and prisons. All such facilities should be under judicial supervision and be subject to regular and unannounced visits by independent institutions. In Saudi Arabia the body responsible for such monitoring is the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, which reports to the Ministry of Interior and thus has a clear conflict of interest.² The purportedly independent Human Rights Commission also has a role in prison visiting and monitoring, but it is likewise subject to the authority of government officials; its deputy president, H.E. Dr Nasser bin Rajeh al-Shahrani, headed the official Saudi delegation to the Committee against Torture session in Geneva. It has recorded only one case of serious abuse, and there has been no information about the outcome of any investigation or follow-up. The National Society for Human Rights, which the authorities describe as a civil society organisation, is financially supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs; it too is tasked with prison visiting and receiving complaints, but it is unclear what, if anything, it has achieved in this respect.

Furthermore, the detention facilities of the Mabaheth are outside any judicial control and have no formal monitoring arrangements at all.

² In June 2017 a royal decree renamed the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution as the Office of Public Prosecution and ordered that a newly appointed public prosecutor report directly to the king. At the time of writing it remains unclear what difference, if any, this measure is making in practice.

A climate of impunity

It is difficult to quantify the extent of torture in Saudi Arabia because victims are generally unwilling to discuss the violations they have suffered, due to a not unreasonable fear of reprisals against themselves or their families. The mechanisms available for making complaints are ineffective because they do not ensure confidentiality, and complaints that are made rarely seem to be followed up. There are no data on investigations resulting in the punishment of perpetrators of abuse.

Civil society can play a valuable role in preventing the possibility of acts of torture by monitoring the conditions and treatment of detainees and prisoners; the authorities have tacitly acknowledged this by allowing the creation of the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights. However, as discussed above, these two bodies lack independence, effectiveness and credibility. No independent human rights organisations are allowed to operate, and the authorities have systematically harassed, arrested and imprisoned dozens of civil society activists for peacefully speaking out against torture and abuse.

Monitoring of prisons and detention centres is therefore weak to non-existent. The judiciary itself lacks independence, being heavily influenced by the Ministries of Justice and Interior, and the king having absolute control over the appointment and dismissal of judges. Defendants' claims in court that their confessions were extracted under torture are routinely dismissed, yet sentences up to and including the death penalty are passed in reliance on these confessions without the allegations being investigated. As a result, those who perpetrate acts of torture and abuse almost escape without being punished or held to account, and the victims receive no redress or compensation.

All of these factors contribute to the climate of impunity surrounding torture in Saudi Arabia.

Torture of prisoners of conscience

ALQST believes that torture occurs mostly, though not exclusively, during the interrogation of terrorist suspects. Methods reportedly include severe beatings; subjection to extremes of temperature; beatings on the soles of the feet; deprivation of food, sleep or light; hooding; suspension by the hands and feet; stress positioning; and being held in solitary confinement for long periods.

In cases known to ALQST directly, prisoners of conscience – those held solely for peaceful expression of their beliefs, including criticism of the authorities' human rights violations – have also been subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, including beatings, being kept in solitary confinement or in a bitterly cold cell, and deliberate medical neglect.

Use of the death penalty

During 2017, 146 people were executed in Saudi Arabia, of whom 40 per cent were executed not in accordance with the Sharia principles of qisas (requit) or hudud punishments but at the individual discretion of a judge, and for non-violent crimes. Saudi Arabia thus retains its position as one of the world's leading executioners. The death penalty has been applied to people of various nationalities and for various crimes, the main ones being murder and drug-related offences. The Saudi authorities justify this on the basis of Sharia law and often tell society and the world through their official media that sentences were based on qisas, when according to their own official statements they were actually imposed at judges' individual discretion. ALQST considers this a fraudulent attempt to deceive the Muslim world and ward off criticism from the international community, using Sharia law as an excuse while actually admitting that judges use their own discretion.

Furthermore, the Saudi judiciary is not independent, and is not guided in its judgements by any clear, transparent legal code. Indeed, the Saudi authorities refuse to regulate the judiciary by law, or to produce a written code of law. They say judges have the right to use their discretion in sentencing, yet the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC) has shown itself to be totally subservient to the Ministry of Interior and uses the deeply flawed Counter-terrorism Law in its trials. The courts also rely on statements extracted under torture. On a number of occasions defendants have been notified of the dates of SCC hearings by the security services. So the judiciary has no independence whatsoever, in either the laws it follows or the judgements it hands down.

Death sentences sometimes containing numerous legal errors, as well as gross and conspicuous violations. In one case, which the authorities dubbed "the Iran spy cell case", ALQST saw the court documents containing the sentences handed down, and can testify that they had gross legal errors and omissions, and that a number of obvious violations had taken place during the investigation and prosecution process. The worst thing was that several of the defendants told the court that their statements had been extracted under torture and the court did not instigate an independent investigation of this claim but insisted on accepting their confessions.

Also, several acts of the defendants were regarded as acts of espionage when they were in fact no such thing, for example meeting political or religious figures. Members of the so-called “spy cell” still await the execution or withdrawal of their sentences by the authorities.

Table 2 on pages **69** shows details of the executions carried out in Saudi Arabia in 2017.

Conclusion and recommendations

We at ALQST call on everyone to condemn the Saudi authorities for their continuing and escalating human rights violations. We appeal for pressure on them to prevent them repeating these things. We strongly caution against silence or complicity with these violations, because that will open the way for the authorities to commit further abuses. We call on the United Nations and the Human Rights Council to take a firm stance toward the Saudi authorities, who, scandalously, hold an advisory seat on HRC. The world should be ashamed that anyone should hold that seat who commits all these violations, as everyone is now aware. We urge everyone not to be drawn into reacting in an undisciplined or unlawful manner, but rather call for these abuses to be resisted and exposed to the world by all peaceful and lawful means.

We at ALQST call on the Saudi authorities to guarantee the independence of the judiciary from the power of the King and the orders of the Ministry of Interior; and to regulate the judiciary by law, ensure that judges are trained and qualified, and build up an impartial, independent judiciary guided by clear, codified laws, applied fairly and equally to all. We call on the authorities to allow Saudi society to participate in building the institutions of civil society, impartial and independent media, and institutions that can monitor the authorities' performance, safe from punishment by the Ministry of Interior. We call for adherence to international laws and agreements, a complete end to torture and other forms of degrading treatment, prompt investigation of all allegations of torture, and the annulment of all sentences not based on fair trials.

We call for the repeal of the Counter-terrorism Law, which provokes violence and nurtures terrorism rather than combating it; for the abolition of the Specialised Criminal Court and for cases involving violence to transferred to regular courts once these have been strengthened in legal terms and given real independence of the authorities; and for the dropping of all charges against opposition figures and political and human rights activists. ALQST calls on the authorities to take steps toward real reform, starting with measures to cement harmony and peaceful coexistence among all sectors of society, and to desist from creating divisions, sectarianism and

hatred within society. It calls for reparations for victims of the mistaken policies of the past, and for the country's security and that of its citizens to take priority over the interests of the ruling family and the creation of tensions and crises. ALQST holds the Saudi authorities and those who collude with them responsible for any worsening of the situation in Saudi Arabia as a result of such behaviour and abuses, which neither preserve peace nor allow the public to enjoy their lawful rights.

ALQST once again urges the Saudi authorities to take the following measures:

1 – Immediately and unconditionally release detained human rights activists, quash the charges brought against them for their legitimate human rights activities, compensate them for damages, and allow them to carry out their legitimate work.

2 – Immediately and unconditionally release all journalists, politicians and others held as prisoners of conscience, quash the charges brought against all those who have been persecuted for expressing their opinions, compensate them for damages, and allow them to exercise their right to freely express their opinions.

3 – Immediately release detainees whose sentences have expired, and compensate them for damages resulting from their remaining in prison beyond the term laid down.

4 – Ensure swift and fair trials for all those in detention who have not yet been tried, immediately release any detainee who has not been charged, and comply with human rights standards in all matters of arrest, custody, investigation, trial, and time served in prison.

5 – Quash all death sentences against minors, and re-try them in accordance with the standards for fair trials, taking account of their ages at the time of committing the offence.

6 – Quash all ta'ziri (discretionary) death sentences, and end the practice of giving judges powers beyond those prescribed in law and allowing them

discretion to apply the death penalty.

7 – Re-try all those sentenced as a result of unfair trials, ensure that lawyers and translators are available for those who need them during their trial, and ensure that trials are held openly and meet the standards for fair trials.

8 – End all torture. Comply with Saudi Arabia's obligations under the UN Against Torture and ensure that no statements extracted under torture are accepted in court, all trials that rely on statements extracted under torture are re-heard, those who commit torture do not go unpunished, and all those who suffer any form of torture are granted compensation.

9 – See to it that conditions in Saudi prisons are improved and that prisoners obtain their basic rights, are not subjected to torture and oppression, and are not exposed to danger in prison by negligence of the authorities, whether from the presence of drugs gangs or from the prevalence of infectious diseases.

10 – Ensure the independence of the judiciary; do not let it fall under political control. Ensure that justice is codified in law, and that there are clear and specific laws that regulate the courts and do not allow judges to sidestep them and impose penalties out of proportion to the crime committed, or that vary from court to court or from judge to judge without reference to a fixed legal tariff.

11 – Abolish the Specialised Criminal Court, and ensure the total and absolute independence of the regular courts.

12 – Remove all restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and stop intimidating and oppressing members of the public for their opinions and ideas, or for criticising the authorities and their transgressions. Allow civil society institutions to form freely in order to monitor the performance of government agencies and ensure they act impartially for the good of society rather than preying on society in the interests of certain groups.

13 – Review the Law on Combating Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing, the Anti-Cyber Crime Law, the Press and Publications Law and other regulations relating to freedom of expression. Ensure that all laws and regulations are compatible with human rights, and ensure there is no confusion between freedom of expression and terrorism. Ensure that the definition of terrorism does not extend to include peaceful opposition or peaceful civic activism, and that countering terrorism is not used as an excuse to suppress liberties.

14 – Review the way official government attitudes are reflected in educational curricula and media policy. Ensure that these do not legitimise attacks on others, or promote a culture of intolerance and violence, or glorify the use of force or violence to effect change, as in the history of the establishment of the first, second and third Saudi states, which came about through tribal fighting, killing and plundering. Ensure, too, that the government's behaviour does not sow divisions between different groups in the community, and cannot be used as a pretext for conflict, violence and terrorism.

15 – Pass legislation to outlaw incitement against others and make slander and defamation crimes, and ensure that freedom of expression, as an individual right, cannot be used to infringe or detract from the rights of others; and enforce the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

16 – Remove the restrictions on women that prevent them from driving cars, prevent them from going about their daily lives without restrictions imposed by male guardians, and prevent them from playing an active part in society. Ensure that women are able to take an active part in society and that laws and regulations protect women from domestic violence, oppression and marginalisation, and ensure compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

17 – Introduce a law to ban sexual harassment and protect vulnerable groups from being harassed and exploited.

18 – Ensure the prompt and urgent resolution of the issue of stateless persons, including the bidoon, members of nomadic tribes, the mawaleed, and children of Saudis without citizenship, and see that the Saudi Residence Regulations and Saudi Citizenship System are amended and updated. Promptly sign up to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and regularise the status of all those resident on Saudi territory, ensuring that they are granted all their basic rights and do not remain without rights or national identity, suffering difficulties in every area of their lives.

19 – Enforce the rights of children, and ensure the Saudi authorities support the protection of children’s rights. Ensure that children are protected, receive immunisations and are looked after, and enforce the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

20 – Enforce the rights of disabled persons, and ensure the Saudi authorities support them in exercising their rights. See that people with disabilities have the necessary support, and ensure adherence to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

21 – Start taking serious steps toward allowing members of Saudi society to participate politically, elect their representatives and be involved in the running and development of their country. Ensure Saudi Arabia ratifies the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

22 – Stop monopolising wealth and power while totally ignoring Saudi society at large. Allow civil society to monitor the performance of government bodies and scrutinise expenditure. Enable it to hold the corrupt to account and prosecute those accused of corruption, and enable it to secure its rights to work and to employ others, its rights to housing and medical treatment, and its right to combat poverty and unemployment. Ensure Saudi Arabia ratifies the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

23 – Ensure justice, equality and the rule of law. Let no one be immune from punishment, and everyone be subject to the rule of law.

24 – Introduce the separation of powers, and make a serious start toward transforming Saudi Arabia from a tyrannical, absolutist regime into a state of rights and institutions.

25 – Stop violating human rights abroad. Halt the violations and crimes being committed in the Yemen war at once. Stop exposing civilians to danger, and end support for any group in any part of the world that does not respect human rights and seeks to impose its objectives on others by force of arms, as is happening in Syria and elsewhere. Stop subjecting innocent people to collective punishment for political considerations, as in the recent crisis with Qatar. Stop supporting repressive regimes that tyrannise their peoples, as has happened with the government of Bahrain and the Sisi government in Egypt. Ensure respect for human rights in any Saudi foreign intervention.

ALQST believes that making a start on these measures would signal a sincere intention to make genuine reforms, whereas stalling on any of them would show a determination to persist in committing abuses and disregarding the rights of Saudi society and regional stability. ALQST believes that for Saudi Arabia to persist in its old ways will further increase the tension apparent in the region, sending the country hurtling toward the precipice, with dire consequences for both the country and the region.

Table 1: List of detainees swept up in recent waves of arrests

الحالة		Date of arrest	lockup	الصفة	name	لإسم	تسلسل
مؤكد	HRD	17-9-2017	القصيم	حقوقى	Abdul Aziz Al-Shabaily	عبد العزيز الشبيلي	1
مؤكد	HRD	16-9-2017	القصيم	حقوقى	Issa Al Hamed	عيسى الحامد	2
مؤكد	HRD	9-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Salman al-Awdah	د. سلمان العودة	3
مؤكد	HRS	12-9-2017	الدمام	مغرد- إقتصادي	Essam Al-Zamil	عصام الزامل	4
مؤكد	HRS	12-9-2017	جدة	كاتب	Abdullah al-Maliki	عبدالله المالكي	5
مؤكد مؤكد خرج	HRS	12-9-2017	الدمام	أكاديمي	Mostafa El Hassan	د. مصطفى الحسن	6
مؤكد	HRS		منطقة مكة	صحفي	Jameel Farsi	جميل فارسي	7
مؤكد	HRS	4-10-2017	الرياض	أكاديمي	Mubark bin Zuair	د. مبارك بن زعير	8
مؤكد		6-10-2017			Aisha al Marzug	عائشة المرزوق	9
مؤكد	S	25-9-2017		أكاديمية	Ruqia al Muhareb	د. رقية المحارب	10
مؤكد	B	9-9-2017	أبها	داعية	Awad Al Qarni	د. عوض القرني	11
مؤكد	B	9-9-2017	جدة	داعية	Ali Al Aomri	د. علي العمري	12
مؤكد	B	12-9-2017	جدة	دكتور جامعي	Aadel BaNaaimah	د. عادل باناعمة	13
مؤكد	B	12-9-2017	الرياض	دكتور جامعي	Ali Badhadah	د. علي بادحدح	14
مؤكد	B	11-9-2017	مكة المكرمة	داعية	Ibrahim Al Harthy	د. إبراهيم الحارثي	15
مؤكد	S	12-9-2017	منطقة عسير	داعية	Gurom ALbeshi	غرم البيشي	16
مؤكد	S		الدمام	داعية	Jamal al Najem	جمال الناجم	17
مؤكد		12-9-2017	القصيم	شقيق سلمان العودة	Khaled al-Awda	د. خالد العودة	18
مؤكد		9-9-2017	أبها	باحث إسلامي	Hassan Farhan al - Maliki	د. حسن فرحان المالكي	19
مؤكد		0-10-2017	الرياض	ابن حسن المالكي	ALABBAS Hassan al - Maliki	العباس بن حسن فرحان	20

الحالة		Date of arrest	lockup	الصفة	name	الإسم	تسلسل
مؤكد				أستاذ جامعي	Sami al Majed	د. سامي الماجد	٢١
مؤكد					Menawer al Abdali	مناور النوب العبدلي	٢٢
مؤكد	خرج	11-9-2017	الرياض	شاعر	Ziad Ben Nahit	زياد بن نحيت	٢٣
مؤكد	B	11-9-2017	مكة المكرمة	داعية	Mohamed Mousa El Sherif	د. محمد موسى الشريف	٢٤
مؤكد	B	14-9-2017		منشد	Rabee Hafez	ربيع حافظ	٢٥
مؤكد	B				Khaled al Ojaimi	د. خالد بن عبدالرحمن العجيمي	٢٦
	S	12-9-2017		داعية	Walid Al Huwairini	وليد الهويريني	٢٧
	S	12-9-2017	جدة	داعية	Hamoud Ali Al Amri	حمود علي العمري	٢٨
	S	12-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Mohammed Al-Shnar	محمد الشنار	٢٩
	S	12-9-2017		طبيب داعية	Abdulmohsen Al Ahmad	د. عبدالمحسن الأحمد	٣٠
	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Mohammed al-Khudairi	د. محمد الخضيري	٣١
	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Mohammed Al - Habdan	د. محمد الهبدان	٣٢
	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Yousef Al - Ahmad	د. يوسف الأحمد	٣٣
	S	11-9-2017		داعية	Abdul Aziz Al Abdul Latif	د. عبدالعزيز آل عبداللطيف	٣٤
مؤكد	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	إعلامي	Fahad Al Sunaidi	د. فهد السنيدي	٣٥
مؤكد	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Ibrahim Al-Nasser	د. ابراهيم الناصر	٣٦
مؤكد		4-10-2017			Dr. Mohammad al Bisher	د. محمد البشر	٣٧
	S	11-9-2017	الرياض	داعية	Ibrahim Al Fares	إبراهيم الفارس	٣٨
	S	9-9-2017	أكاديمي	أكاديمي	Abdulaziz Al-Zahrani	د. عبدالعزيز الزهراني	٣٩
	S		صحفي	صحفي	Ahmad al Sawian	د. أحمد الصويان	٤٠

الحالة		Date of arrest	lockup	الصفة	name	لإسم	تسلسل
	S			مغرد	Mousa al Ganami	موسى الغنامي	٤١
مؤكد	S			إعلامي	Malek al Ahmad	د. مالك الأحمد	٤٢
	S				Mosad al Kathiri	مساعد الكثيري	٤٣
	S		مكة المكرمة	داعية/ أكاديمي	Mohammed al Barrak	د. محمد البراك	٤٤
	S			عضو الجمعية الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان	Habeeb al Loiheq	د. حبيب بن معلا اللويحق	٤٥
	S			داعية	Saad Mater al Otaibi	سعد مطر العتيبي	٤٦
		15-9-2017	جدة	قارئ	Idris Mohamed Abker	إدريس محمد أبكر	٤٧
		12-9-2017	القصيم	كاتب	Khaled Al Mahoushi	خالد المهاوش	٤٨
		12-9-2017	حوطة سدير	عميد كلية العلوم والدراسات الإنسانية	Yousef Al - Mohaus	د. يوسف المهوس	٤٩
		12-9-2017		مغرد	Yousuf al Mulhem	يوسف الملحم	٥٠
		12-9-2017		إعلامي	Ali Abu al Hassan	د. علي أبو الحسن	٥١
		12-9-2017		وكيل وزارة العدل	Ahmed Al - Amira	أحمد العميرة	٥٢
		12-9-2017		قصاص	Fawzan al Ghazlan	فوزان الغسلان	٥٣
		12-9-2017		صحفي	Sami al Thubaiti	سامي الثبتي	٥٤
		12-9-2017		عضو لجنة المناصحة	Abdullah al Suailem	عبدالله السويلم	٥٥
		12-9-2017		أكاديمي	Razin al Razin	رزين الرزين	٥٦
		12-9-2017		مشرف مكتب وزير العدل	Yousef al Farraj	يوسف بن عبدالعزيز الفراج	٥٧
		12-9-2017		وكيل وزارة العمل والشؤون الاجتماعية	Salem al Daiini	د. سالم أحمد الديني	٥٨
		12-9-2017		مغرد	Khaled al Alkami	خالد العلكمي	٥٩
	S			أكاديمي	Senhat al Otaibi	صنهاد العتيبي	٦٠

الحالة	تاريخ الإعتقال	lockup	الصفة	name	الإسم	تسلسل
	12-9-2017		مغرد	Mousa al Ganami	نايف الصحفي	٦١
	0-8-2017		خبير عسكري	Zaid al Banawi	زايد البناوي	٦٢
مؤكد	12-9-2017				سامي الغييب	٦٣
	12-9-2017	مكة المكرمة	داعية/ أكاديمي		يوسف القاسم	٦٤
	12-9-2017		عضو الجمعية الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان		علي حميد الجهني	٦٥
	12-9-2017		داعية		راشد الشهري	٦٦
	12-9-2017				سام الديني	٦٧
مؤكد	3-1-2018		كاتب		صالح الشحيحي	٦٨
مؤكد	5-11-2017 حول للحاير TRANSFERRED to Hair prison		طبيب/ كاتب	Dr. Waleed Fitihi	وليد فتحي	١
	0-11-2017		رجل أعمال	Abdullah Suleiman Al-Rajhi	عبدالله سليمان الراجحي	٢
مؤكد	4 Nov 2017 out 28 Nov		وزير الحرس الوطني سابقا	Miteb bin Abdullah	متعب بن عبدالله	٣
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		رجل أعمال	Al-Waleed bin Talal	الوليد بن طلال	٤
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		نائب قائد القوات الجوية سابقا	Turki Bin Nasser	تركي بن ناصر	٥
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		رجل أعمال ورئيس MBC	Waleed al-Ibrahim	الوليد بن إبراهيم	٦
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		رئيس الديوان الملكي سابقا	Khalid al-Tuwaijri	خالد التويجري	٧
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		أمير الرياض سابقا	Turki bin Abdullah	تركي بن عبدالله	٨
مؤكد	٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ١٦ يناير		رئيس الخطوط السعودية سابقا	Khalid al-Mulheim	خالد الملحم	٩

الحالة		Date of arrest	lockup	الصفة	name	لإسم	تسلسل
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		رجل أعمال	Bakr Bin Laden	بكر بن لادن	١٠
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		رجل أعمال	Saleh Kamel	صالح كامل	١١
		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		رجل أعمال	Abdullah Saleh Kamel	عبدالله صالح كامل	١٢
		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		رجل أعمال	Mohy'deen Saleh Kamel	محيي الدين صالح كامل	١٣
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		نائب وزير الدفاع سابقا	Fahd bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud	فهد بن عبد الله بن محمد آل سعود	١٤
		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		محافظ هيئة الاستثمار السابق	Amr al-Dabbagh	عمرو الدباغ	١٥
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٢٦ يناير		رئيس المراسم الملكية في الديوان الملكي سابقا	Mohammed al-Tobaishi	محمد الطبيشي	١٦
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		وزير المالية السابق	Ibrahim al-Asaaf	إبراهيم العساف	١٧
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		قائد القوات البحرية سابقا	Abdullah al-Sultan	عبدالله بن سلطان السلطان	١٨
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		وزير الاقتصاد والتخطيط السابق	Adel Fakieh	عادل فقيه	١٩
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ٣٠ نوفمبر		رجل أعمال	Mohammed al Amoudi	محمد العمودي	20
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		الرئيس السابق لشركة الاتصالات	Saoud al-Daweesh	سعود الدويش	21
مؤكد		٥ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		رئيس نادي الاتحاد السابق	Mansour al-Balawi	منصور البلوي	22
مؤكد		٥ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧		رجل أعمال	Nasser Al Tayyer	ناصر الطيار	23
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		مساعد وزير المالية السابق	Mohammed bin Homoud Al Mazyed	محمد بن حمود المزيدي	24
مؤكد		٤ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ خرج ديسمبر		رئيس الاتحاد العربي لكرة القدم السابق	Turki bin Khalid	تركي خالد آل سعود	25
مؤكد		١٢ سبتمبر ٢٠١٧			Abdul Aziz bin Fahd	عبدالعزیز بن فهد	26

الحالة		Date of arrest	lockup	الصفة	name	لإسم	تسلسل
					Zuhair Fayeز	زهير فايز	27
					Loai Nasser	لؤي ناظر	28
					Abdulrahman Fakieh	عبد الرحمن فقيه	29

Table 2: List of people executed in Saudi Arabia in 2017

Crime	Place of execution	Nationality	Source	Date	Sex	Arabic	Name	No
Murder of Jazy Alenzy	Arar	Saudi	SPA واس	17 JAN	M	ممدوح بن سعيد بن فرحان العنزي	mamdoh said frhan alenzy	1
Drug Smuggling	Al hasa	Saudi	SPA واس	26 JAN	M	سيف بن محمد بن يحيى هزازي	Seif Mohamed Yahya Hazazi	2
Murder Of Mohamed Salem	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	31 JAN	M	علي بن محمد بن عيسى عسيري	Ali Mohamed Esa Assiri	3
Murder Of Slyman Ramadan	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	1 FEB	M	عبدالرحمن بن محمد بن شلاش السبيعي العنزي	Abdulrahman mohamed shlash Alenzi	4
Murder Of Turki Salem	Altaif	Saudi	SPA واس	5 FEB	M	علي بن جازي بن عايض اليقيني	Ali Jazi Ayed Albigimi	5
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Pakistani	SPA واس	8 FEB	M	لال محمد عبدالرزاق خان	Lal Mohamed Abdulrzg Khan	6
Murder Of Abid Abdrabalnabi	Altaif	Saudi	SPA واس	12 FEB	M	ضيف الله بن علي بن محمد الغريبي	Daifallah Ali MohamedAlgaribi	7
Murder Of Mohamed Sad	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	13 FEB	M	محمد بن مناحي بن ذيب الأكلبي	Mohamed Monahi Deab Alaklabi	8
Murder Of Aliem Slyem	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	16 FEB	M	سعود بن ابراهيم بن ماطر الشمري	Saud Abraham Mater Alshamiri	9
Drug Smuggling	Alqatif	Pakistani	SPA واس	16 FEB	M	محمد أكبر محمد شفيق	Mohamed Akbar Mohamed Shafiq	10
Murder Of Mobarak Nair	Yanbu	Saudi	SPA واس	20 FEB	M	أحمد بن سليم بن ثابت العنيني الجهني	Ahmed Salem Thabit Alanini	11
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Pakistani	SPA واس	23 FEB	M	إعتبار خان قل سلاخان	Etibar Khan Ql Slakhan	12
Murder Of Wife Rasmia Mohareb	Hafar Albatin	Saudi	SPA واس	28 FEB	M	معجب بن صلفيق بن عياد الجميلي	Mojab Salfeq Ayad	13
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	2 MAR	M	ساري بن صالح بن هباش القحطاني	Sari Saleh Habash Alqhtani	14
Murder Of Said Mohamed	Jeddah	Saud	SPA واس	3 MAR	M	إبراهيم بن محمد بن عطية الله الزبيدي	Ibraheem Mohamed Atiatallah Alzobadi	15
Murder Of Yousef Naif	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	5 MAR	M	رداد بن ناصر بن رداد اليقيني	Radad Naser Radad Albqmi	16
Murder Of Saleh Saad	Jeddah	Saudi	SPA واس	7 MAR	M	سعيد بن حمدان بن حويان المالكي	Said Hamdan Hwayan Almalki	17
Rape	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	9 MAR	M	علي بن عايض بن علي مداوي	Ali Ayed Ali Mdawi	18
Murder Of Mefleh Moady	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	22 MAR	M	ذيب بن مبارك بن هادي المهدي القحطاني	Deab Mobark Hady Alqhtani	19
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	23 MAR	M	ناصر بن صالح بن خاطر آل حرشان	Naser Saleh Khater Alharshan	20
Drug Smuggling	Riyadh	Pakistani	SPA واس	23 MAR	M	نعمت الله خاسته قل	Nametallah Khastah Qal	21
Murder Of Ali Abdulrahman	Jeddah	Saudi	SPA واس	28 MAR	M	عبدالله بن محمد بن عبدالله القرني	Abdullah Mohamed Abdullah AlQarni	22
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Saudi	SPA واس	4 APR	M	خالد خان صدراي	Khaled Khan Sadari	23
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Pakistani	SPA واس	4 APR	M	أصف علي تاج محمد	Asef Ali Taj Mohamed	24

Drug Smuggling	Riyadh	Syrain	SPA واس	5 APR	M	فواز محجوب كوركيس	Fawaz Mahjob Korkes	25
Drug Smuggling	Jeddah	Pakistani	SPA واس	9 APR	M	محمد أشرف شافي محمد	Mohamed Ashraf Mohamed	26
Drug Smuggling	Jeddah	Pakistani	SPA واس	9 APR	M	محمد عارف محمد عنایت	Mohamed Aref Mohamed Aneat	27
Drug Smuggling	Jeddah	Pakistani	SPA واس	9 APR	M	محمد أفضل أصغر علي	Mohamed Afdal Asgar Ali	28
Drug Smuggling	Riyadh	Pakistani	SPA واس	13 APR	M	راج محمد شهناز جوکیو	Raj Mohamed Shehnoaz Jokyo	29
Murder Of Abdullah Salem	Aljuf	Saudi	SPA واس	20 APR	M	سعود بن خلف بن بركة العنزي	Saud Khalef Baraka Alenezi	30
Murder Of Mshabeb Mohamed	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	23 APR	M	علي بن عشق بن مناحي الشيباني	Ali Asheq Monahi Alshybani	31
Murder Of Rashed Mohamed	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	24 APR	M	مشعل بن برك بن عمر الكثيري	Moshal Bark Omar Alkthiri	32
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	jordan	SPA واس	26 APR	M	إبراهيم محمد ناصر اليوشي	Ibrahem Mohamed Alblosly	33
Murder Of Mohamed Hamed	Macca	Saudi	SPA واس	7 MAY	M	فايز بن علي بن بحني يماني	Fayz Ali Yahya Yamani	34
Murder Of Nawal Abdullah	Alqatif	Saudi	SPA واس	8 MAY	M	نور بن علي بن عبدالله آل أحمد	Noor Ali Abdullah Alhamad	35
Rape	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	11 MAY	M	محمد بن سعيد بن جمعان الزهراني	Mohamed Said Jaman Alzahrani	36
Murder Of Fahad Faisal	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	16 MAY	M	مبخوت بن فهد بن صيتان الحراجين الدوسري	Mbkot Fhyed Sytan Aldawsry	37
Murder Of Mohamed Mobarak	Taif	Saudi	SPA واس	21 MAY	M	سعيد بن راشد بن عويض العضياتي الحارثي	Said Rashed Awyed Aladayani	38
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Pakistani	SPA واس	22 MAY	M	نيزامين زراين خان	Nayazmeen Zarin Khan	39
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	22 MAY	M	مفرح بن مسفر بن علي اليامي	Mofreh Mesfer Ali Alyami	40
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	22 MAY	M	ناصر بن مسفر بن علي اليامي	Naser Mesfer Ali Alyami	41
Murder of Qaramallah solyman & Norah alzahrani	Albaha	Yemen	SPA واس	3 JUL	M	شاهر أحمد قايد حسين	Shaheer Ahmed qayed Hessen	42
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	4 JUL	M	علي بن مسفر بن علي البيشي	Ali Mosfer Ali Albushi	43
Murder Of Ali Hadi	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	حويدر بن حصين بن علي اليامي	Hwayder Hasen Alymi	44
Murder Of Abdulmoaen Hamza	Albaha	Saudi	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	بركات بن محمد بن راجح الغامدي	Barakat Mohamed Alqamdi	45
Murder Of Ali Abdullah	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	نايف بن مهدي بن عبدالله الأسمري	Naif Mahdy Abdullah Alasmay	46
Murder Of Ayed Abdulaziz	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	دعيج بن شاجع بن فيصل الفحطاني	Dayj Shoja Faisal Alqahtani	47

Murder Of Ali Muslim	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	عبدالله بن محمد بن صالح الصيعري	Abdullah Mohamed Saleh Alsyari	48
Drug Smuggling	Riyadh	Pakistani	SPA واس	10 JUL	M	محمد ولي قولان	Mohamed Waly Golan	49
Murder Of Loulwa Mohamed	Damam	Canada	SPA واس	11 JUL	F	إليزابيث نيامبورا غاتشاو	Elizabeth Neambora Gatchaw	50
	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	11 JUL	M	زاهر عبد الرحيم حسين البصري	Zaher Abdulrahem Hesana Albusry	51
	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	11 JUL	M	يوسف علي عبدالله المشيخص	Yousef Ali Abdullah Almoshekes	52
	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	11 JUL	M	مهدي محمد حسن الصايغ	Mahdy Mohamed Hasan Alsayq	53
	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	11 JUL	M	أمجد ناجي حسن آل امعييد	Amjd Naji Hasan Almabid	54
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Yemen	SPA واس	12 JUL	M	أيمن أحمد قوبان	Aymen Ahmed Qoban	55
Murder Of Salem Hessian	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	12 JUL	M	ناصر بن يحيى بن دعيريم آل الحارث	Naser Yahya Darem Alharth	56
Murder Of Shbieb Sear	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	13 JUL	M	عبدالله بن مسفر بن غنام العجمي	Abdullah Mosfir Qanam Alajmi	57
Murder Of Naser Ameesh	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	13 JUL	M	زايد بن محمد بن هليل الشمري	Zaid Mohamed Alshamiry	58
Murder Of Mohamed Said	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	18 JUL	M	عبدالرحمن بن عوض بن سعد الأحمرري	Abdurahman Awad Sad Alahmari	59
Murder Of Qasim hesen	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	18 JUL	M	أحمد بن موسى بن محمد عسييري	Ahmed Mosa Mohamed Assiri	60
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	19 JUL	M	حامد بن سالم سليمان الحويطي	Hamed Salem Sleman Alhoti	61
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Syrain	SPA واس	19 JUL	M	سليمان حسين حسين	Slyman Hesana Hesana	62
Kidnapping	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	20 JUL	M	سعيد بن علي بن سعيد الزهراني	Said Ali Said Alzahrani	63
Murder Of Awad Freq	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	20 JUL	M	عوض بن هادي بن سعيد آل غراب القحطاني	Awad Hadi Saad Alqrab Alghtani	64
Murder Of Riyad Alden Ali Khan	Riyadh	Ethiopia	SPA واس	24 JUL	M	تولدي هيلو غبوا سيلاسي	Toldy Helo Qalbo Sylasi	65
Murder Of Riyad Alden Ali Khan	Riyadh	Ethiopia	SPA واس	24 JUL	M	برهي منغشا بيني	Berhi Migasha Bini	66
Murder Of Abdullah Samhi	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	24 JUL	M	عائض بن علي بن محمد القحطاني	Ayed Ali Mohamed Alqhtani	67
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	26 JUL	M	سعود بن فريج العميري	Saud Freah Alamiri	68
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	jordan	SPA واس	26 JUL	M	حمزة محمد داود الخطيب	Hamza Mohamed Dawad Al Khatib	69
Murder Of Maikl Homod	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	26 JUL	M	فهد بن مبارك بن فهاد التنتيفات	Fahad Mobarak Fahad Alntifat	70
Murder Of Ayman Naser	Macca	Saudi	SPA واس	27 JUL	M	عبدالعزیز بن مسعود بن رداد المسعودي	Abdulaziz Msod Radad Almsody	71
Murder Of Mohamed Shafi	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	1 AUG	M	نايف بن لمعان بن محمد الهويشلي	Naif Lman Mohamed Alhoishali	72
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Pakistani	SPA واس	1 AUG	M	زبير أحمد محمد أفضل	Zaber Ahmed Mohamed Afdal	73

Drug Smuggling	Aljuf	jordan	SPA واس	2 AUG	M	عمر حسين ابراهيم القريني	Amer Hesen Ibrahim Alqrini	74
Murder Of Majri Jameh	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	3 AUG	M	متعب بن حمود بن ثليل آل جابر القحطاني	Motib Hmod Shlyel Aljaber Alqahtani	75
Murder Of His Son Osama	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	8 AUG	M	جمال بن محمد بن حاوي الجيزاني	Jamal Mohamed Hawi Aljzani	76
Murder Of Mohamed Ayed	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	12 AUG	M	عايض بن ناصر بن فهاد آل فاضل القحطاني	Ayed Naser Fahad Alfadil Alqhtani	77
Murder Of Soltan Saad	almadina	Saudi	SPA واس	14 AUG	M	سلطان بن سليم بن سلامة اللقماني	Soltan Salem Salama Alogmani	78
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	15 AUG	M	يحيى علي موسى عاتي	Yahya Ali Mosa Atey	79
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	15 AUG	M	علي ابراهيم جبران أحمد	Ali Ibrahim Jobran Ahmed	80
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	15 AUG	M	شوعي عيسى يوسف حجاجي	Shoey Eysa Yousef Hjjaji	81
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	21 AUG	M	زياد بن عطية بن سليمان العمراني	Ziyad Atiya Solyman Alomrani	82
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	21 AUG	M	سلطان بن سريع بن لوففي العمراني	Soltan Sarya Loufi Alomrani	83
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	24 AUG	M	فواز عبدالله سالم ابراهيم	Fawaz Abdullah Salem Ibrahim	84
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	24 AUG	M	عبدالله جابر سالم بيدر	Abdullah Jaber Salem Bayder	85
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	24 AUG	M	عيسى ميتان محمد اجيبي	Eisa Mytan Mohamed Ajebi	86
Murder Of Faraj Mohamed	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	13 SEP	M	سعيد بن مبخوت بن عون آل محمد الصبيعي	Said Mabkot Own Mohamed Alsyari	87
Murder Of Hesa Abdullah	Riyadh	Ethiopia	SPA واس	14 SEP	F	برهاني تسفاني	Berhani Tsafani	88
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	14 SEP	M	ابراهيم علي سعيد عباس	Ibrahim Ali Said Abas	89
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	14 SEP	M	محمد علي يحيى سالم	Mohamed Ali Yahya Salem	90
Drug Smuggling	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	14 SEP	M	علي محمد عبدالله حسن	Ali Mohamed Abdullah Hasan	91
Murder Of Mahdy Salem	Najran	Saudi	SPA واس	19 SEP	M	غريب بن محمد بن رفعان آل فطيح	Qarib Mohamed Rafan Alftiyh	92
Rape	mecca	Mali	SPA واس	20 SEP	M	عبد موسى كالي صالح	Abda Mosa Kaly Saleh	93
Drug Smuggling	Almadina	Nigerian	SPA واس	21 SEP	M	يوسف يقيني أجي بوي	Yousef Yaqini Ajey Boy	94
Murder Of Abid Mohamed	Mecca	Saudi	SPA واس	24 SEP	M	أحمد بن محمد بن أحمد الشريف	Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Alsherif	95
Murder Of Rmehy Rthey	Almadina	Saudi	SPA واس	26 SEP	M	خالد بن عليقة بن الرثيع السحيمي الحربي	Khaled Alytha Alrthya Alhahimi Alharbi	96
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	27 SEP	M	فيصل بن سلامة بن علي البلوي	Faisal Salama Ali Alblwey	97
Murder Of Mohamed Salem	Aljuf	Saudi	SPA واس	27 SEP	M	عبدالله بن عيد بن عبدالله السليمان	Abdullah Eid Abdullah Alsolyman	98
Murder Of Atiya Ashwey	Aljuf	Saudi	SPA واس	29 SEP	M	حمدان بن سمر بن عجران الرويلي	Hamdan Samer Ajran Alrwayli	99

Drug Smuggling	Jeddah	Pakistani	SPA واس	1 OCT	M	رحيم شاه خوشحال خان	Raheem Shah Koshal Khan	100
Murder Of Ayed Mosfer	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	2 OCT	M	معجب بن جبهان بن علي آل عاطف القحطاني	Mojab Jabhan Ali Alatif Alqhtani	101
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	jordan	SPA واس	3 OCT	M	حمدان عطيش عطية الربايعه	Hamdan Atysh Atiya Alrbyah	102
Murder Of Babol Hosan	Riyadh	Indian	SPA واس	12 OCT	M	كومار بشقار نام	Komar Bishqar Nam	103
Murder Of Babol Hosan	Riyadh	Indian	SPA واس	12 OCT	M	لياقت علي خان رحمن	Liyqat Ali Khan Rahman	104
Drug Smuggling	Aljuf	Palestinian	SPA واس	12 OCT	M	محمد جمعه أحمد عنبر	Mohamed Jomah Ahmed Anber	105
Drug Smuggling	Aljuf	Saudi	SPA واس	12 OCT	M	فلحان بن محمد فلحان السبيعي	Flhan Mohamed Falhan Alsbye	106
Drug Smuggling	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	16 OCT	M	سعود بن نايف بن مفلح الشمري	Saud Naif Moflh Alshamiry	107
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Pakistani	SPA واس	18 OCT	M	سفدار اقبال بائي خان	Sefdar Eqbal Bati Khan	108
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	24 OCT	M	سليم بن زايد بن سليم الحويطي	Slayem Zaid Slayem Alhwayti	109
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	24 OCT	M	عطا الله بن عطيه بن سويلم الحويطي	Atallah Atiya Swaylm Alhwety	110
Murder Of Naser Abdullah	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	26 OCT	M	شيبان بن عبدالله بن شيبان آل سويلم الدوسري	Shyban Abdullah Shyban Aldowsri	111
Murder Of Naser Mohamed	Damam	Saudi	SPA واس	31 OCT	M	محمد بن عبدالله بن فهد القحطاني	Mohamed Abdullah Fahad Alqahtani	112
Murder Of Fada Monahey	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	31 OCT	M	ناصر بن محمد بن سعيد الشهراني	Naser Mohamed Said Alshahrani	113
Drug Smuggling	Aljuf	Syrain	SPA واس	1 NOV	M	حمدي أكرم السمحان	Hamedy Akram Alsmhan	114
Murder Of Shuaa Batal	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	2 NOV	M	شافي بن خطاب بن فيحان آل بريك الدوسري	Shafi Hatab Fyhan Albrek Aldowsri	115
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	2 NOV	M	سليمان بن عطالله بن عوده العطوي	Slyman Atallah Awda Alatawi	116
Drug Smuggling	Almadina	Pakistani	SPA واس	7 NOV	M	شفاقت علي لياقت	Shafqat Ali Liqat	117
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	8 NOV	M	سليمان بن سويلم بن شاهين الحويطي	Slyman Swlum Shahn Alhawiti	118
Murder Of Salah Nasser	Taif	Yemen	SPA واس	14 NOV	M	حاتم صالح علي العبدلي	Hatim Saleh Ali Alabdily	119
Murder Of Mostafa Mohamed	Eastern Province	Saudi	SPA واس	14 NOV	M	محمود بن عيسى بن تقي أبو أديب	Mohamed Aisa Taqi Abo Adeb	120
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	15 NOV	M	منصور بن عوض بن سلمان العمراني	Manswr Awad Salman Alamrani	121
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	jordan	SPA واس	15 NOV	M	درويش خليل أحمد درويش	Darwish Khalil Ahmed Darwish	122
Drug Smuggling	Abha	Yemen	SPA واس	21 NOV	M	حسن محمد علي هادي	Hasan Mohamed Ali Hadi	123
Murder Of Sami Saad Mohamed	Asir	Saudi	SPA واس	21 NOV	M	حامد بن علي بن محنتش الحارثي	Hamid Ali Monish Alharthi	124
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	22 NOV	M	سامي بن صبحي بن سعيد العطوي	Sami Sobhi Saed Alatwi	125
Murder Of Sultan Abdalali	wadi al dawasir	Saudi	SPA واس	23 NOV	M	محمد بن فاهد بن محماس الدوسري	Mohamed Fahid Aldwsri	126

Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	علي علي أحمد السفلي	Ali Ali Ahmed Alsalafy	127
Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	صادق أحمد صغير القطافي	Sadiq Ahmed Saqer Alqatafi	128
Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	محمد محمد حسن السفلي	Mohamed Mohamed Hasan Alsalafi	129
Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	صالح محمد حسن ملضي	Salh Mohamed Hasan Mlty	130
Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	زيد مجدر أحمد عشي	Zayed Mjader Ahmed Ashy	131
Murder and Robbery	Asir	Yemen	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	عبدالله شو عي حسن ملضي	Abdullah Shwey Hasan Moldy	132
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	Saudi	SPA واس	28 NOV	M	لويحي بن فرحان بن فالج البلوي	Lawifi Farhan Falah Alblwi	133
Murder Of Abdulkhani Sief	Riyadh	Yemen	SPA واس	4 DEC	M	عادل بن عبدالكريم بن علي الغنام	Adil Abdulkarem Ali Khanam	134
Murder Of Motheb Mohamed	Taif	Saudi	SPA واس	5 DEC	M	مثير بن محمد بن عبدالله السبيعي	Motheb Mohamed Abdullah	135
Murder Of Said Salem	Aldamam	Saudi	SPA واس	5 DEC	M	خالد بن عوض بن فهد العتيبي	Khalid Awad Fahad	136
Murder Of Hasna Hesin	Jeddah	Saudi	SPA واس	6 DEC	M	سعود بن سعد بن عبدالجبار البردي	Saud Saed Abduljabar	137
Murder Of Homod Yarkhan	Mecca	Pakistani	SPA واس	7 DEC	M	محمد بادل خان عثمان جعفر علي	Mohamed Badil Khan	138
Murder Of Ali and Mohamed	Khamis Mushait	Saudi	SPA واس	14 DEC	M	خزام بن عائض بن مبارك الشهراني	Khazam Ayed Mobark	139
Murder Of Seham, Raid, Lames	Taif	Saudi	SPA واس	17 DEC	M	سعد بن سعيد بن ظافر الشهري	Sad Said Dafer Alshehri	140
Murder Of Jaber Behsh	Abha	Yemen	SPA واس	19 DEC	M	خالد بن عبدالله بن حمود العمراني	Khaled Abdullah Homod	141
Murder Of Hiyder Nabi Bakhsh	Taif	Saudi	SPA واس	20 DEC	M	خالد بن معيض بن حجیل القناني	Khaled Moaid Hajil	142
Drug Smuggling	Tabuk	jordan	SPA واس	20 DEC	M	حسن أحمد مسعود عساسفه	Hasan Ahmed Mahmod Asasifa	143
Murder Of Omar Homod	Taif	Saudi	SPA واس	21 DEC	M	حامد بن مطير بن محمد المالكي	Hamd Moter Mohamed Almalky	144
Murder Of Abdulmalik, Hesa, Nada, Nora, Noha, Abeer	Riyadh	Saudi	SPA واس	26 DEC	M	محمد بن عبدالله بن محمد القحطاني	Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed Alqhtani	145
Drug Smuggling	Eastern Province	Saudi	SPA واس	27 DEC	M	عمار بن أحمد بن سعيد الغامدي	Amar Ahmed Said Alqamdi	146

Table 3: Executions in 2017 by category of crime

Crime	Number
Murder	83
Drug-related offences	59
Kidnapping, torture and rape	4
Total	146

Table 4: Executions in 2017 by nationality and gender

Nationality	Male	Female
Saudi Arabian	91	
Pakistani	16	
Jordanian	6	
Indian	2	
Yemeni	21	
Ethiopian	2	1
Syrian	3	
Canadian		1
Nigerian	1	
Palestinian	1	
Malian	1	
Total	144	2



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