

Ebrahim Raisi
Head of the Judiciary
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
SCHWEIZ

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/raisi_org/?hl=en

Dear Mr Ebrahim Raisi,

I am writing, on the occasion of the 2020 World Day Against the Death Penalty, to draw your attention to the case of **Barzan Nasrollahzadeh**, who was sentenced to death following a grossly unfair trial and for a crime that took place when he was under 18 years old. Barzan Nasrollahzadeh was denied access to a lawyer during his entire pre-trial detention and was only allowed to meet a lawyer for the first time at his trial, three years after arrest. He was just 17 years old at the time of the crime.



The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which Iran is a party, strictly prohibit the imposition of death sentences for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age. Therefore, Barzan Nasrollahzadeh should not have been sentenced to death.

Barzan Nasrollahzadeh is one of scores of individuals who were sentenced to death in Iran for crimes that occurred when they were below the age of 18, in violation of international human rights law.

I therefore urge you to:

- Immediately halt any plans to execute Barzan Nasrollahzadeh, ensure that his conviction and sentence are quashed, and that he is granted a fair retrial in accordance with the principles of juvenile justice, without resort to the death penalty and excluding statements obtained through torture or other ill-treatment or without the presence of a lawyer;
- Conduct an independent, impartial and transparent investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice;
- Immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all crimes;
- Immediately stop the use of the death penalty against people below 18 years of age at the time of the crime;
- Take steps to ensure a legislative effort is initiated to amend Article 91 of the 2013 Islamic Penal Code to completely abolish, without any discretion by the courts or other exceptions, the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by people below the age of 18, in line with Iran's obligations under international law;
- Ensure all people facing the death penalty in Iran have access to an independent lawyer of their own choosing from the time of arrest.

Yours sincerely

Copy to:

Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran, S.E. Herrn Mahmoud Farazandeh
Podbielskiallee 67, 14195 Berlin, Fax: 030-83 222 91 33, E-Mail: info@iranbotschaft.de

His Majesty
King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King, Royal Court
Riyadh
SAUDI-ARABIEN

Your Majesty,

I am writing, on the occasion of the 2020 World Day Against the Death Penalty, to draw your attention to the case of **Sheikh Salman al-Awda**, a religious cleric, who was brought to trial before the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) in a secret session in August 2018 on 37 charges; some under the counter-terror law, for financially supporting a pan-Gulf youth forum; his alleged affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood; his participation in a petition calling for, amongst other things: an elected Shura Council, separation of the executive and legislative branches of government, reform of the judicial system, the establishment of civil society organizations and freedom of expression. He was also accused of supporting calls for government reforms and regime change in the Arab region.



Salman al-Awda had been arrested on 7 September 2017 from his home without a warrant. He was held incommunicado and in solitary confinement for the first five months of his detention, with no access to his family or a lawyer except for one brief phone call a month after his arrest. During his first trial session in August 2018, the public prosecution demanded his execution based on the above charges.

Sheikh Salman al-Awda has been through a terrible ordeal since his arrest including prolonged pre-trial detention, months of solitary confinement, incommunicado detention, and other ill-treatment. He remains on trial facing an unfair lawsuit and the death penalty for his peaceful expression.

I therefore urge you to:

- Drop the charges against Salman al-Awda and ensure he is not sentenced to death;
- Immediately and unconditionally release cleric Salman al-Awda;
- Ensure all people facing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia have access to an independent lawyer of their own choosing from the time of arrest.

Yours sincerely

Copy to:

Botschaft des Königreichs Saudi-Arabien, Herrn Botschaftsrat Mohammed Mutlaq L. Alanazi
Tiergartenstr. 33-34, 10785 Berlin, Fax: 030-8892 5176, E-Mail: deemb@mofa.gov.sa

His Majesty
King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King, Royal Court
Riyadh
SAUDI-ARABIEN

Your Majesty,

I am writing, on the occasion of the 2020 World Day Against the Death Penalty, to draw your attention to the case of **Suliamon Olufemi**, a Nigerian national, who was arrested on 29 September 2002. He was convicted and sentenced to death in May 2005 over the death of a police officer following an grossly unfair trial. Suliamon Olufemi has been languishing in prison in Saudi Arabia since 2002.



Suliamon Olufemi said he was tortured during interrogation in order to force him to sign statements written in Arabic, a language that he could neither read nor understand. Under duress he was said to have put his fingerprints, which can be taken as a substitute for a signature, to a statement written in Arabic. He later learnt in court that he had “signed” a statement that said that he had hit the police officer over the head with a gun.

At his trial, Mr Olufemi had no legal representation, no consular assistance, no adequate translation facilities and the “confession” in Arabic which had been obtained under torture was used. He was sentenced to death although he has always maintained his innocence and his 12 co-defendants have stated that he was not involved in the incident that led to the death of the police officer.

In April 2007, the Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission, confirmed that the death sentence against Suliamon Olufemi had been upheld by the Court of Cassation and the Supreme Judicial Council, meaning he has no further recourse to appeal. His co-defendants have already served their prison sentence and deported to Nigeria.

I therefore urge you to:

- Prevent the execution of Suliamon Olufemi;
- Grant Suliamon Olufemi clemency. He has been in prison for 18 years and sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial.
- Ensure all people facing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia have access to an independent lawyer of their own choosing from the time of arrest.

Yours sincerely

Copy to:

Botschaft des Königreichs Saudi-Arabien, Herrn Botschaftsrat Mohammed Mutlaq L. Alanazi
Tiergartenstr. 33-34, 10785 Berlin, Fax: 030-8892 5176, E-Mail: deemb@mofa.gov.sa