

Petition to

**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Executive Office, Al Hada 4104, 7669
Riyadh 12911, Saudi Arabia**

Your Royal Highness,

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Jalal Labad, Abdullah Al-Derazi, Youssef Al-Manasef, Hassan Zaki Al-Faraj, Ali Jaafar Al Mabiouq, Jawad Qureiris, Ali Hassan Al-Subaiti and Mahdi Al-Mohsen. The eight young men were sentenced to death even though they were still minors at the time of the alleged offences. These Shiites were prosecuted for their participation in protests. They were held in solitary confinement for months and suffered torture in order to make forced confessions. After several years in detention, they were brought to court, where they were accompanied by a lawyer for the first time.

The eight men were brought before special criminal courts that are supposed to prosecute crimes related to acts of terrorism. They were sentenced to death under the Tazir category of punishment, which allows your regime to impose arbitrary sentences that are often to the detriment of the Shiite minority.

The confessions made under torture were the main incriminating elements presented by the prosecution. Although the defendants testified before the judge about torture during their detention, there were no investigations into these allegations.

Article 15 of the Saudi Juvenile Law of 2018, which was promulgated by royal decree on 31 July 2018, stipulates that "if the crime committed by a minor is punishable by death, the sentence shall be commuted to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years [...]". A royal decree from 2020 extends the application of this law and provides, among other things, for the prohibition of the death penalty for minors in the category of Tazir. In addition, Saudi Arabia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 37 of which states that the death penalty may never be imposed for offences committed by persons under the age of 18. Furthermore, your country has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Article 2 of which obliges Saudi Arabia to take all effective measures to prevent torture on its territory.

In view of this, I urge you:

- 1. to overturn the death sentences against Jalal Labad, Abdullah Al-Derazi, Youssef Al-Manasef, Hassan Zaki Al-Faraj, Ali Jaafar Al Mabiouq, Jawad Qureiris, Ali Hassan Al-Subaiti and Mahdi Al-Mohsen;**
- 2. subsidiarily, to commute their death sentences to an appropriate term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years, taking into account the time already served;**
- 3. in the event of a commutation of sentences or the opening of new trials, to respect the guarantees of a fair trial; in particular, that confessions extracted under torture are considered inadmissible;**
- 4. to protect these young men from torture and other forms of ill-treatment;**
- 5. to initiate an investigation into the alleged torture during their detention.**

Yours sincerely,