

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Groningen, 2024

Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

I am deeply distressed that two young men, Abdullah al-Derazi and Jalal Labbad, are at imminent risk of execution. The Specialized Criminal Court convicted them of terrorism-related charges over their participation in protests against the government's treatment of the Shi'a minority in the country. Both young men were under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crimes. They were sentenced in grossly unfair trials that lacked procedural safeguards. They had no access to legal representation during their pre-trial detention and told the court that they were tortured to "confess".

By sentencing the two men to death, Saudi authorities have reneged on their own promises to end the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below eighteen years of age.

I urge you not to ratify the death sentences of Abdullah al-Derazi and Jalal Abbad, and to call on the competent authorities to quash their convictions and order a fair retrial without recourse to the death penalty. Furthermore, I call on you to order a prompt, impartial, independent, and effective investigation into the defendants' claims of torture and ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,