

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