

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:

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