

# URGENT ACTION

## TWO YOUNG MEN AT IMMINENT RISK OF EXECUTION

Abdullah al-Derazi and Jalal Labbad are at risk of imminent execution after Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court secretly upheld their death sentences in secret, without notifying their families or lawyers. Both young men were under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crimes and were sentenced for crimes related to their participation in anti-government protests after grossly unfair trials that primarily relied on torture-tainted confessions. The young men have exhausted all domestic legal remedies and could now be put to death at any moment if King Salman ratifies their death sentences.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 103.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

### King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

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### Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the United States

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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 and will be put to death should you ratify their death sentences.

Both young men were under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crimes. Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court secretly upheld the death sentences of Abdullah al-Derazi and Jalal Labbad after the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) 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 men 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", which the court did not investigate. With these sentences, Saudi authorities have reneged on their own promises to end the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below eighteen.

I urge you not to ratify the death sentences of Abdullah al-Derazi and Jalal Labbad, 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, including severe beatings, sexual violence, and electrocution.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has credible information that the Supreme Court secretly upheld the death sentences of **Abdullah al-Derazi** and **Jalal Labbad** without notifying their families or lawyers. In the absence of transparent information around judicial processes in Saudi Arabia, particularly in death penalty cases, families only find out about the fate of their loved ones through the media. On October 16, 2023, the UN special rapporteur on summary, extrajudicial or arbitrary executions expressed concern at the imminent execution of Abdullah Al-Derazi. The two young men could be put to death as soon as the King ratifies their death sentences.

The Saudi Human Rights Commission told Amnesty International in a May 2023 letter that ‘the application of the death penalty on juveniles for ta’zir crimes has been completely abolished’. Ta’zir crimes, which both young men have been convicted of, are crimes for which the death penalty is not mandated under Islamic law. The use of the death penalty against people who were under 18 years of age at the time of the crime they have been convicted of is strictly prohibited under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Saudi Arabia has ratified.

Abdullah al-Darazi was 17 at the time of the crime. He was arrested on August 27, 2014, and sentenced to death by the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) on February 20, 2018. He told the court that he was held in pretrial detention for three years and had no access to legal representation. According to his court documents, which Amnesty International has reviewed, he told the judge: “I demand an independent medical evaluation to prove the torture that I have been subjected to ... The records of the Dammam investigations unit hospital prove that I continue to be treated because of beatings on my ears during my interrogation”. The court failed to investigate his torture allegations, and instead on August 8, 2022, an appeals court upheld his death sentence.

Jalal Labbad was between 15 and 17 years old at the time of the crime. He was arrested on February 23, 2019, and sentenced to death by the SCC on July 31, 2022. According to court documents reviewed by Amnesty International, he told the court he was detained for almost three years in pretrial detention and subjected to physical and psychological torture including “nine and a half months in solitary confinement in a small and tight room”, “severe beatings”, and “electrocuting my entire body, and particularly my genitals”. He told the court that he had been repeatedly denied medical treatment. An appeals court upheld Labbad’s sentence on October 4, 2022. Saudi Arabia is one of the world’s top executioners. Between January and October 2023, the Saudi authorities have already executed 112 people.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English, Arabic

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** December 25, 2023

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Abdullah al-Derazi (he/him); Jalal Labbad (he/him)