

Speech presented by




DEATH PENALTY & USE OF TORTURE IN SAUDI ARABIA

FROM 2018 ONWARDS

Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and his officials have repeatedly said:

Saudi Arabia intends to abolish the death penalty for non-lethal offences, childhood offences.



Executions for drug related crimes and child defendants continue

application of the death penalty continues to fall short of its regional and international obligations arising out of the

Arab Charter on Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Convention Against Torture.



Since **2018**, at least **693** individuals
have been executed

Those who were
deemed arbitrarily
detained by United
Nations special
procedures

Individuals charged
with non-lethal
crimes

Child defendants

SINCE 2018

Saudi Arabia has also carried
out two mass executions



FAILURES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAST UPR



No steps to restrict the application of the death penalty to the “most serious” offences

Failed to implement recommendations on improving transparency

Continues to misuse counterterrorism legislation

Child defendants remain at risk of the death penalty.

In April 2020

the Saudi Human Rights Commission announced that a new Royal Decree expanded the scope of the Juvenile Law and in October 2020, 9 child defendants at risk of imminent execution,

SHRC claimed “no one in Saudi Arabia will be executed for a crime committed as a minor”. Yet, in June 2021 a child defendant was executed for non-lethal protest related offences.

Persons on death row in Saudi Arabia continue to allege that they have been tortured while detained and interrogated by Saudi authorities,

10 other child defendants were executed since 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of these facts, we kindly call on States to recommend that Saudi Arabia:



1

Immediately
establishes an official
moratorium on the use
of the death penalty

2

Reviews and amends
legislation on the death
penalty to ensure that its
application is restricted to
the “most serious crimes”,
as required by the Arab
Charter



3

Commutes all death sentences handed down for offences that do not meet the threshold of the Arab Charter

4

Amends Juvenile Law 2018 to end the death penalty for all childhood crimes, irrespective of the category of offence



5

Fulfills its promise to draft a penal code that complies with international and regional human rights obligations and that prohibits the death penalty for non-lethal offences.

THANK YOU

REPRIEVE

ES  **HR**

Presented By:

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