

URGENT ACTION

SAUDI ARABIA EXECUTES MAN AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

Saudi Arabia executed Said Mabkhout al-Sai'ari on 13 September. He was sentenced to death in December 2013 for the murder of a man, despite the court concluding that there was not enough evidence to convict him.

Said Mabkhout al-Sai'ari was executed on 13 September in the city of Najran, in the southwest of Saudi Arabia. On 25 December 2013 he was sentenced to death by the General Court in Najran for the murder of another Saudi Arabian man during a fight that broke out between members of two tribes on 2 July 2009.

Said al-Sai'ari always maintained his innocence, and according to the 86-page court document the court sentenced him to death despite concluding that there was not enough evidence to convict him. The court relied on 50 sworn statements made by the victim's father, who believed that Said al-Sai'ari was responsible for the murder of his son. These statements were held admissible as evidence in court regardless of the fact that the victim's father was not present at the crime scene.

The death sentence against Said al-Sai'ari was upheld by the Supreme Court on 20 March 2016, and on 5 April 2016 the case was sent to the King for ratification. The sentence was then referred back from the Ministry of Interior to the Najran Governorate for implementation in mid-November 2016. Said al-Sai'ari's family managed to successfully exert pressure on the authorities to postpone the execution for six months, but were told in June 2017 that Said al-Sai'ari would be executed at any time after 2 July.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.

This is the second update of UA 144/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/7084/2017/en/

Further information on UA: 144/17 Index: MDE 23/7186/2017 Issue Date: 29 September 2017

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