

PETITION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF CHRISTIAN PRISONERS HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA

Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Ambassador Al-Jubeir,

It is with great concern that we petition your government to take immediate action to address the cases of 35 Christian Ethiopian nationals who were arrested on December 15th and imprisoned in Briman Prison, in Jeddah, after conducting a group prayer meeting.

Our sources indicate that these men and women were arrested due to their religious beliefs and are currently being detained without trial and with no indication of when or if they will be released. Furthermore, we have reason to believe that some of the Christians arrested have been violently interrogated and suffered severe physical abuse at the hands of Saudi authorities. Reports also indicate that some of the prisoners are suffering from illnesses related to unsanitary conditions in Briman prison and have been unable to obtain proper medical treatment. The prisoners have also been prevented from receiving any visitors.

Mr. Ambassador, the signatories of this petition strongly urge you to take immediate action towards halting the abuses suffered by these Ethiopian citizens because of their religious preference. We also ask that you speak with local authorities in Jeddah in order to bring about a quick release for these individuals who have been wrongfully imprisoned. While we applaud the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's partnership with the United States in combating extremist ideology, we also ask that you carefully consider the negative consequences which result when men and women visiting or working in your country are summarily imprisoned and abused simply because of their personal religious beliefs.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern (and attached)

CC:
Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ambassador Girma Birru
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Richard Lugar, Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Congressman Howard L. Berman, Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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SAUDI ARABIA**

(Please Print, Do Not Sign)

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