

From:

Date:

His Majesty  
King Abdullah bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud  
Servant of the Holy Shrines  
Royal Court  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Your Majesty!

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2002, in Jeddah, a group of men, among them a policeman, arrived in an area where many African nationals worked as car cleaners. An argument escalated into a fight in which the policeman was killed. The following day security forces carried out mass arrests in the area. Suliamon Olyfemi, a Nigerian national, and 12 other men were tried in connection with the death of the policeman. They did not have legal representation and were not provided with a translator; the trial was conducted in Arabic, a language they do not understand.

During interrogation they had been told to put their fingerprints, which can act as a signature, on statements written in Arabic. These statements were used as evidence against them during the trial.

According to information from the Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission, the death sentence against Suliamon Olyfemi has been upheld by the Court of Cassation and ratified by the Supreme Judicial Council. I fear that Suliamon Olyfemi could be executed at any time. He has always maintained his innocence.

Your Majesty, I kindly ask you to commute the death sentence against Suliamon Olyfemi. I would also be very grateful if Your Majesty could seek clarification of the steps being taken to enable Suliamon Olyfemi and others to exercise effectively the rights to judicial review and to seek a pardon.

And, without wanting to interfere into internal matters of the Kingdom, I would suggest you advise your Courts to observe international standards for fair trials, which I think have not been respected in Suliamon Olyfemi's process.

Yours respectfully