

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – SAUDI ARABIA: Free RAIF BADAWI



TO: King Salman and
Ministry of Justice, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulkareem Al-Issa

Saudi Arabian blogger **Raif Badawi** is a family man, with a wife and 3 young children. Raif was arrested in June 2012, on a charge of insulting Islam through electronic channels. In December 2012 he was also cited for apostasy, a conviction which carries an automatic death sentence.

Amnesty International believes **Raif Badawi** to be a **Prisoner of Conscience** detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

On 7 May 2014 **Raif** was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes (50 to be carried out every Friday), followed by a 10 year travel ban, a ban on using media outlets, and a fine of one million Saudi Arabian riyals (about US\$266,600). His sentence demonstrates Saudi Arabia's continued widespread campaign to persecute civil society activists and human rights defenders with complete impunity. Due to international pressure floggings were suspended after week 1.

Flogging violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment under international law and should not be carried out under any circumstances

We the undersigned call on the Saudi Authorities to:

- Stop** any further **flogging** of **Raif Badawi**;
- Release** Prisoner of Conscience **Raif Badawi** him **immediately and unconditionally**, as he is detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression; and
- Ensure **Raif Badawi's** conviction and sentence are **quashed**.

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SEND TO: Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 601 New Hampshire Ave.
NW, Washington DC 20037