Minister of Justice

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulkareem Al-Issa

Ministry of Justice

University Street

Riyadh 11137

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Excellency

**Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey**

I write as a member of Amnesty International - which is an impartial organisation working on behalf of prisoners of conscience, against the death penalty, torture, political killings and 'disappearances'. I was deeply disturbed to hear about the plight of Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey and his scheduled execution on 25th August. I am relieved to hear that the execution was not carried out as planned.

Hajras al-Qurey was sentenced to death on 16 January 2013 by the General Court in Najran. He had “confessed” during his interrogation – both he and his son claim they were tortured during this process. Nether had access to a lawyer at their trial.

Please don’t carry out the execution on Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey. I urge you to use your authority to grant Hajras bin Saleh bin Muhammad al-Qurey and his son Muhammad al-Qurey a retrial in accordance with international standards for fair trial and without recourse to the death penalty.

Please urgently order an impartial and independent investigation into the men’s allegation that they were tortured and otherwise ill-treated and to exclude any evidence tainted with torture allegations. Under international law the death penalty may be imposed only after trials complying with the most rigorous internationally recognized standards for fair trial, and only for the most serious crimes. Non-lethal crimes such as drugs offences do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes”.

Yours sincerely