



Hamilton House  
Mabledon Place  
London  
WC1H 9BD



UNISON Centre  
130 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2AY



Carlow Street  
London  
NW1 7LH

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

18 July 2017

Dear Foreign Secretary

On behalf of our members in the National Union of Teachers, UNISON and University and College Union we are writing to ask you to contact the Saudi Ambassador immediately calling for a stop to the imminent executions of 14 pro-democracy activists who may be beheaded within a matter of hours. Two were minors when arrested at pro-democracy rallies in 2012, and one is a disabled person. United Nations' observers at the time of the protests stated they were peaceful. Furthermore, Amnesty International claims that torture was used to extract the confessions from those who were arrested. These are two concrete reasons for the executions to be halted.

The reason we are concerned about the immediate fate of the 14 is that we have just been informed that they have all been moved to Riyadh, which seems to indicate that they are about to be executed, as state executions take place in the capital. One of those condemned to death, Munir Al-Adam, was born with impaired sight and hearing. According to Reprieve, in their efforts to extract a confession from him, Munir's captors tortured him so badly he was rendered completely deaf in one ear. One of the minors, Mujtaba'a al-Sweikat, was arrested at the airport as he was about to fly out to the US to take up a place at West Michigan University.

The United Kingdom's abhorrence of capital punishment should extend to calling on its allies to observe internationally-recognised standards on the right to life. The use of beheadings as a form of control or punishment is abhorrent.

We urge you to use your good office to call on the Saudi authorities to stop the executions immediately. The number of beheadings by Saudi Arabia last year reached 154 according to Human Rights Watch. As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, it is crucial that the UK upholds human rights as protected in international law, and holds other members of the Council to account.



Cont...../

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Courtney".

Kevin Courtney  
General Secretary  
National Union of Teachers (NUT)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Prentis".

Dave Prentis  
General Secretary  
UNISON

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Hunt".

Sally Hunt  
General Secretary  
University and College Union (UCU)