

REQUEST FOR WARN ACTION # 6/12

TO: International WARN coordinators via Ulana Moroz Senenko, AIUSA, Tel: +1 202 509 8160, Fax: +1 202 675 8566, Email: (umoroz@aiusa.org)

FROM: May Romanos, West Gulf Team, IS

DATE: 10 February 2012

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COMMENTS TO WARN CONTACTS:

We have received information that Hamza Kashgari, 23 year-old Saudi Arabian national, arrested by the Malaysian authorities, is under imminent risk of forcible return to Saudi Arabia, where he could be facing death penalty. We would be grateful for your appeals.

INTERNAL

COUNTRY: Saudi Arabia/Malaysia

NAME(S): Hamza Kashgari

DETAILS OF SITUATION:

We have received information that Hamza Kashgari, a 23 year-old Saudi Arabian national, who has been arrested by the Malaysian authorities, is at an imminent risk of forcible return to Saudi Arabia where he could be facing death penalty over some tweets perceived to be offensive to the Prophet Mohammed.

Hamza Kashgari left Saudi Arabia on 6 February amid death threats following a smear campaign describing him as an apostate when he posted tweets perceived by prominent clerics as insults of Prophet Mohammed. He headed to Jordan and then to the UAE before flying to Malaysia. While in Dubai airport, he posted a message apologizing for his previous tweets and said he had deleted them after realizing they may have been perceived as offensive.

Hamza Kashgari first arrived in Kuala Lumpur on the 7 February, and had planned to travel on to New Zealand. On 7 February, the Saudi Arabian King reportedly called on the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Interior to arrest him and hold him accountable for the statements he made. He was arrested at Kuala Lumpur's airport Thursday morning and taken away by two plain-clothed men. His whereabouts remain unknown.

He is at imminent risk of forcible return to Saudi Arabia where should his tweets be deemed to amount to apostasy he could face the death penalty.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please write appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Malaysian authorities to reveal Hamza Kashgari's location and grant him access to his lawyer;
- Urging the Malaysian authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally as he is detained for his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression, and therefore Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience;
- Urging the Malaysian authorities to stop his forcible return to Saudi Arabia where he could face death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance

Y.A.B. Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak
Office of The Prime Minister,
Main Block, Perdana Putra Building,
Federal Government Administrative Centre,
62502 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA

Fax: + 60 3 8888 3444

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Home Affairs

His Excellency Datuk Seri Hishammudin Hussein
Ministry of Home Affairs
Blok D1 & D2, Kompleks D
Pusat Pentadbiran
Kerajaan Persekutuan
62546 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA

Fax : +60 3 8889 1613, +60 3 8889 1610

Email: hishammuddin@moha.gov.my

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister

His Excellency Datuk Seri Anifah Amam
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Wisma Putra
NO 1 Jalan Wisam Putra, Precinct 2
62602 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA

Fax: +60 3 8889 1717

Email: webmaster@kin.gov.my

Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country, if the faxes don't go through please send to your embassy or consulate requesting that they forward your appeals to the relevant authorities.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY