

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2021/2787(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, notably the cases of Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish and Abdullah al-Howaiti		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area Saudi Arabia		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
08/07/2021	Debate in Parliament		
08/07/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0357/2021	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2787(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 150
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B9-0392/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0393/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0394/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0396/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0397/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0398/2021	07/07/2021	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B9-0392/2021	07/07/2021		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0357/2021	08/07/2021	EP	Summary

Resolution on the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, notably the cases of Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish and Abdullah al-Howaiti

The European Parliament adopted by 661 votes to 3, with 23 abstentions, a resolution on the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, notably the cases of Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish and Abdullah al-Howaiti.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR and the Left groups.

Saudi Arabia committed to abolishing the death penalty for all child offenders without exception by 2016 through new legislation. However, on 15 June 2021, Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish, a young Saudi man from the Shia minority, was executed for offences that rights groups say he may have committed as a minor. In addition, Abdullah al-Howaiti was tried in a mass trial of six individuals in an armed robbery case. Al-Howaiti was arrested in May 2017, when he was 14 years old. He was sentenced to death on 27 October 2019 despite the fact that his DNA sample was taken after his arrest, invalidating his identification as possible suspect. In 2021, he still remains in detention and on death row.

Parliament strongly condemns the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ongoing execution of child offenders despite its claims that it has abolished such executions, including the recent execution of Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish for crimes that may have occurred while he was a minor following his conviction in an unfair trial involving a confession obtained from him under torture, as well as the fact that there are currently at least 40 detainees in Saudi Arabia at risk of execution, including at least nine for alleged crimes committed as minors, and

peaceful critics of the government.

Saudi Arabia is called on to:

- confirm that Abdullah al-Howaiti, Mohammed al-Faraj and all other child offenders currently on death row will not be executed, that confessions extracted under torture will be excluded from their cases, and that all child offenders will be granted a fair trial without the imposition of the death penalty;
- genuinely abolish the death penalty for child offenders;
- implement a moratorium on executions pending their abolition;
- review the cases of all prisoners currently under a death sentence with the aim of commuting their sentences or offering a new and fair trial where the death penalty will not be imposed;

Parliament urged the EU delegation and the diplomatic missions of EU Member States in Saudi Arabia to urgently request to visit child offenders detained on death row.

The Council is urged to suspend all EU exports of mass surveillance technology and other

dual-use items to Saudi Arabia that can be used to facilitate internal repression and silence

civil society.

Lastly, the resolution denounced the fact that the Saudi political system remains profoundly undemocratic and continues severely repressing most dissenting voices despite the announcement of ambitious human rights-related reforms. Parliament strongly supports the application of the Global Human Rights Sanctions Mechanism against those responsible for grave human rights violations in Saudi Arabia, including the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi.