Shocking news and an appeal

We have received this dreadful news from Reprieve about Mustafa al-Darwish, the subject of one of our Death Penalty appeals.

Mustafa Hashem a-Darwish was executed on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. His family were given no warning. They found out this morning by reading the news.

Mustafa was only 17 years old - a child - at the time of ‘crimes’ for which he was sentenced to death. He was only 26 years old when he was executed by the Saudi Arabian state.

When he was arrested, Mustafa was placed in solitary confinement and beaten so badly that he lost consciousness several times. To make the torture stop, he ‘confessed’. At trial, he told the court that he’d only ‘confessed’ to make that torture stop.

But he was still sentenced to death.

Abdullah al-Huwaiti is now at risk of execution. He was convicted in 2019 of murder and armed robbery in 2017, when he was 14. He says he was forced to confess under torture and his defence is that closed circuit television footage shows he was at the seafront playing football with his friends at the time of the alleged ‘crime’, a jewellery robbery and murder.

He and other imprisoned juveniles in Saudi Arabia are also at risk of execution.

Since the Foreign Secretary must respond to a request from an MP, ACAT would be grateful if members and others write to their MP. Suggested wording is: -

“*Dear (MP’s name )*

*Executions of Juveniles*

*Could you please ask the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, to raise with the relevant Saudi authorities the case of Abdullah al-Huwaiti who is at risk of execution. He was convicted in 2019 of murder and armed robbery in 2017, when he was 14. He says he was forced to confess under torture and his defence is that closed circuit television footage shows he was at the seafront playing football with his friends at the time of the alleged ‘crime’, a jewellery robbery and murder.*

*On 15th June Saudi Arabia beheaded Mustafa al-Darwisha who was only 17 at the time of his alleged crime to which he confessed, he claimed, only after being tortured and not because he was guilty. Other imprisoned juveniles in Saudi Arabia are also at risk of execution. Please ask the Foreign Secretary to protest at the beheadings of juveniles.*

*Thank you.*

*Your sincerely”*