



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
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July 31, 2017

Ambassador Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz
The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Dear H.E. Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I am writing to express our grave concern about the fate of the 14 imprisoned young Saudi citizens who have been convicted and sentenced to death by beheading. This strikes us as cruel and unusual punishment for participation in peaceful protest actions. One of these men, Mujtaba'a al-Sweikat, is a prospective college student accepted to study at Western Michigan University. WMU is an institution of higher education whose faculty is represented by the AFT.

This horrifying situation has led to significant outcry from not only our members—educators, nurses, security and prison officers, and civil servants across America—but from many other concerned people and organizations around the world. Although I am a qualified lawyer as a member of the New York State Bar Association, I am not interested in arguing the distinctions in U.S. law and Saudi law or, for that matter, international norms and standards in jurisprudence. As I know you are familiar with our family and community culture in the United States, I am appealing to your compassion as a father and son to intervene with His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to suspend the sentences.

I respectfully request a meeting with your Excellency at your earliest convenience to discuss the fate of the 14 men. I am also available for a telephone conversation, if you prefer, as I understand time is of the essence. I will have my office follow up with your secretary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Randi Weingarten
President

RW: mc opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: Rex Tillerson, U. S. Secretary of State
H. R. McMaster, National Security Adviser, White House
António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

