

Your Majesty
King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Majesty King of Saudi Arabia,

I am profoundly disturbed that Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi was publicly flogged in front of al-Jafali mosque after Friday prayers. I call on you to immediately put an end to Raif Badawi's flogging, as it is a flagrant violation of the prohibition on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under international law. Please ensure that he is not flogged again in the coming months.

Raif Badawi is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. Please release him immediately and unconditionally and ensure his sentence and conviction are quashed.

I am also deeply concerned about the number of activists in Saudi Arabia who, like Raif Badawi, are persecuted for peacefully expressing their views online. I call on you to put an end to the campaign of arrests, prosecutions and imprisonment of activists for simply peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter..

With kind regards,