

February 17, 2015

His Excellency Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Excellency:

We are encouraged by your government's choice to delay the flogging of Raif Badawi for a fifth week in a row, and by the decision to transfer his case again to the criminal courts for further review. We hope that this latest review will provide an opportunity to reconsider the unjust punishment that has been imposed on Mr. Badawi for the act of peaceful writing.

As you know, we previously sent you a letter requesting that your government allow us to stand in for Mr. Badawi, taking 100 lashes each of the 1,000 that your government has sentenced him to receive. We reiterate what we said in that first letter: We would rather share in his victimization than stand by and watch him be cruelly tortured.

Once word of our first letter became public, we received an overwhelming response from individuals around the world asking how they too could stand in for Mr. Badawi. In response to this support, we created an online petition that we append to this letter. In it, you will find signatures from more than 1,000 individuals representing 42 countries on every habitable continent in the world. These are 1,000 everyday citizens of various nations, faiths, circumstances, and beliefs. They are an incredibly diverse group but what they share in common is a strong sense of justice and compassion for their fellow human beings. Equally they share a deep dismay at the grave injustice being done to Mr. Badawi simply for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of conscience and freedom of expression.

We ask that you look at this petition closely, taking note of the fact that individuals only signed this petition upon careful reflection of what it would mean to stand in place of Mr. Badawi. Their signatures represent a powerful message of solidarity that no matter how many lashes you attempt to inflict upon Raif Badawi there will be others from around the world ready to take each and every lash in his place.

Once again, we call upon your government to remit Mr. Badawi's sentence. We hope that this will be the outcome of the current review and that Mr. Badawi will soon be allowed to join his family in Canada.

Yours sincerely,



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