



International Domestic Workers' Network (IDWN)

c/o
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers'
Associations (IUF)
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18th January, 2013

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Excellency,

We, the International Domestic Workers Network, representing domestic workers worldwide, condemn in the strongest terms the beheading of Rizana Nafeek, the Sri Lankan domestic migrant worker, in Saudi Arabia on 9th January 2013, for a 'crime' which still has yet to be confirmed.

Rizana Nafeed was accused of murdering an infant she helped to take care of in May 2005 when she was only 17 years old. In her 7 years of imprisonment prior to her execution, justice has been denied to her. There was no thorough investigation into the case. No autopsy of the baby's body was carried out and Rizana was not provided with legal service and even interpretation services.

The decision of the Saudi Arabia government under Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz to carry out Nafeek's execution despite repeated appeals for clemency by her family as well as local and international human rights and civil society organizations around the world is deplorable and unacceptable.

Migrant domestic workers, like all other migrant workers, are workers and human beings. Due to their nature of work, they are the most vulnerable and easy preys of exploitative recruitment agencies, abusive employers and the unjust legal system. Rizana Nafeed was a case in point. According to the Human Rights Watch's report, at least 45 women, including domestic workers, are now on the death row in Saudi Arabia. They will not be forgotten.

We strongly demand that the government of Saudi Arabia indemnify the case by apologizing to Rizana Nafeed's family and making other compensations according to the family's wishes. We further demand that the government of Saudi Arabia immediately adopt and reform its policies and laws in line with international standards as stipulated in the United Nations and International Labour Conventions, such as the C189, protect human rights and labour rights of migrant workers, in particular those of domestic workers, and avert future miscarriages of justice.

Yours sincerely,

Myrtle Witbooi
Chair, IDWN