

From: Faheem Naqvi
Sent: 10/18/2014 12:50:35 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Stop the Judicial Murder of Saudi dissident Sheikh Nimr

As a conscientious citizen living in the 21st century who rejects the atrocious notion that dissident voices need to be crucified, I urge you to use your good offices with the Saudi government to immediately release rights activist and dissident scholar, Sheikh Nimr.

Saudi Arabia happens to be one of our major and oldest allies but unfortunately its human rights record dents our own credibility by association. Specifically, the manner of the trial against Sheikh Nimr after he was shot, arrested and held without charges for nearly a year are a shocking reminder of the state of human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At a time when our own allies are funding groups like ISIS that settle differences with beheadings, bombings and rape, we need figures in the Muslim world like Sheikh Nimr who eschew violence and articulate protest as "the weapon of the word is stronger than bullets".

For speaking out against the Saudi regime, Sheikh Nimr was shot, wounded and held for months in isolation. His trial was a farce and the charges against him contradicted his own clear and unambiguous public statements that called for peaceful protests.

If we fail to put pressure on our own allies to stop their repressive and violent tactics against dissent, we erode our own credibility within the world community. Sheikh Nimr has become a symbol of peaceful protest within the very country we hold as one of our closest allies. He needs your pressure to save his life and send a powerful message to the world community "The Weapon of the word is strong than bullets"

Thank you.

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