



## **Memo on sentences carried out on 47 terrorists on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2016**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to combatting terrorism both within its borders and internationally.

The sentences carried out on the 47 terrorists on January 2, 2016 did not take into account sect or faith but were focused solely on the terrorist acts undertaken by those convicted that led to the death of countless innocent victims. They were carried out inside State Corrections Facilities in Riyadh, Makkah, Medina, the Eastern Province, Al Qaseem, Ha'il, Al Hudud Ash Shamaliyya, Asir, Al Jawf, Najran, Al Baha, and Tabuk. Every execution was carried out in the presence of a medical doctor.

Every convict was allowed a lawyer throughout the judicial proceedings; those without access to a lawyer were afforded one by the state. The judicial procedures for terrorism cases with capital punishments require that cases exhaust the judicial process, i.e. appeals and higher courts, (regardless of whether that is requested by the defendant) before any sentence can be cleared for implementation. The terrorism cases were presented to a preliminary court and seen by three judges, after which they were transferred to an appeals court that was overseen by five judges. Finally, the cases were transferred as a matter of procedure to a higher court, where five judges submitted rulings on the cases. In total, every death sentence cleared for execution was scrutinised by 13 judges over the course of the judicial process. Throughout the judicial process, family members of the defendants, media, and legal representatives were present during court hearings.

While many of the convicted terrorists were charged with a variety of crimes, they all were cleared for execution as a result of direct involvement in terrorist activities. Nimr al Nimr, as an example, was involved in incitement, planning terrorist attacks, arming militants, and was apprehended following a gunfight with security officers.

- The 47 convicted terrorists were directly responsible for terrorist attacks and activities ranging back to 2003 that included:
  - o The bombing of Al Hambra residential compound
  - o The bombing of the Vinyl residential compound
  - o The bombing of Ishbylia residential compound
  - o The assault on the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp)
  - o The bombing off Al Waha residential compound
  - o The poisoning of public water facilities
  - o Kidnapping and subsequent murder and mutilation of expatriates in Saudi Arabia
    - One of the victims was U.S. citizen Paul Marshall Johnson Jr., a helicopter engineer whose videos while in terrorist custody in 2004 were aired by major international news outlets.
  - o Producing explosives in Saudi Arabia and smuggling explosives into the Kingdom.



- Possession of firearms, rockets, explosives manufactured locally and smuggled from neighbouring countries.
- Targeting both military and security state institutions that led to the death of many officers and civilians
  - The bombing of the General Directorate of Traffic (traffic police headquarters) in Riyadh
  - The two bombings targeting the Ministry of Interior in Riyadh
  - The bombing targeting the headquarters of the Special Emergency Forces
  - Conspiring to target King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait
  - Conspiring to target Prince Sultan Air base in Al Kharj
  - Conspiring to target the civilian airport in 'Arar
  - The kidnapping and murder of security personnel on several occasions
  - Opening fire on active duty security personnel and attacking them with Molotov cocktails
- The assault on the American consulate in Jeddah that led to the death of four Saudi security officers
- The attack on Abqaiq refinery that led to the killing of two police officers
- Conspiring to target various embassies and consulates in the Kingdom
- Attacks on Saudi Aramco and a number of its facilities
- The armed robbery of various banks and commercial entities in addition to fraud and extortion that resulted in terrorist groups accumulating vast amounts of money for laundering inside the Kingdom and abroad
- The funding of terrorist activity and attacks