



The BENENSON SOCIETY

**Campaign for Raif Badawi, a Saudi blogger imprisoned for expressing his views.
Raif is a classic prisoner of conscience, whose case has attracted world-wide attention.**



This June was the fifth anniversary of the arrest of Raif Badawi.

Raif turned 33 this year. He has not seen his children for five years. His wife, Ensaf Haidar, is in exile in Canada, and his lawyer, Waleed Abu al-Khair, is serving a 15 years' sentence because of his criticism of human rights abuses.

Badawi was sentenced in 2014 to 10 years' imprisonment and 1,000 lashes (50 at a time over 20 weeks) and fined 1m Saudi riyals (£175,000). He has been detained since June 2012, and his Free Saudi Liberals website, established to encourage debate on religious and political matters in Saudi Arabia, was closed.

Raif received his first 50 lashes in January 2015, but his next flogging has been continually postponed, in part due to pressure from human rights groups outside of Saudi Arabia. It seems though that the Saudi authorities are determined to wait out criticism in the belief that Raif's case will fade from view.

Saudi Arabia is a key country in the Middle East which is making some steps towards democratization. It is sensitive to criticism on human rights issues, especially as it has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council.. Please consider renewing or campaign for Raif.

What can we do?

Please fax appeal to the King of Saudi Arabia, or send letters via the local Saudi Arabian embassy, You may consider sending a copy to your local political representative.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz

The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques

Office of His Majesty the King

Royal Court, Riyadh

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 1 403 3125

Your Majesty

As a member of the Benenson Society may I respectfully and urgently ask you to investigate the case of blogger and activist Raif Badawi, who was arrested five years ago and was sentenced in 2014 to 10 years' imprisonment and 1,000 lashes (50 at a time over 20 weeks) and fined 1m Saudi riyals.

Freedom of expression is a key human right, one protected by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. I note that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been elected to the Human Rights Council of the UN. Harsh punishment for those who call for debate and who criticize figures of authority, including religious, reflects poorly on the Government.

We ask the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia become a model to its neighbours of tolerance and freedom, rather than be an example of harsh suppression of free expression.

Your Majesty, please intervene in this case to ensure that Raif Badawi does not continue to be punished for expressing himself on social media.

Respectfully,

This is a good website that contains further information on the case, include contacts for Raif's family.

- Raif Badawi - Humanitarian, Writer & Blogger - Raif Badawi
www.raifbadawi.org

Official website of **Raif** Badawi. Humanitarian, Writer and Prisoner in Saudi Arabia.
Campaign News, Blogs and Support.

Saudi embassies (please check these local contacts as details can change)

Australia and New Zealand:

His Excellency Nabil bin Mohammed Al-Saleh

38 Guilfoyle Street
Yarralumla ACT 2600

(you can also contact the Ambassador through the embassy website.)

United Kingdom and Ireland:

HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf,

Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the Republic of
Ireland

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

30 Charles St

London

W1J5DZ

United States:

HRH Prince Abdullah bin Faisal

Royal Embassy of Saudi
Arabia 601 New Hampshire
Avenue, NW Washington, DC
20037

Germany

Godesberger Allee 40-42,
5300 Bonn 2

Pakistan:

House no. 14, Hill Rd.
F-6/3, Islamabad