



Lawyer: Beheading planned in Saudi sorcery case

March 31, 2010 6:27 p.m. EDT



Ali Hussain Sibat pictured with two of his five children.

(CNN) -- A Lebanese man charged with sorcery and sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia is scheduled to be beheaded on Friday, the man's lawyer said Wednesday.

May El Khansa, the attorney for Ali Hussain Sibat, told CNN that she and Sibat's family were informed about the upcoming execution. She said she heard from a source in Saudi Arabia with knowledge of the case and the proceedings that Saudi authorities "will carry out the execution."

The Saudi Ministry of Justice could not immediately be reached for comment on the matter.

El Khansa said she has appealed to Lebanon's prime minister, Saad Hariri, and president, Michel Suleiman, to stop the execution. Amnesty International, the human rights group, has called on Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah to block it as well.

TV presenter gets death sentence for 'sorcery'

Sibat is the former host of a popular call-in show that aired on Beirut-based satellite TV channel "Sheherazade." According to his lawyer, Sibat would predict the future on his show and give out advice to his audience.

El Khansa told CNN her client was arrested by Saudi Arabia's religious police (known as the Mutawa'een) and charged with sorcery while visiting the country in May 2008. Sibat was in Saudi Arabia to perform the Islamic religious pilgrimage known as Umra.

Sibat was then put on trial, and in November 2009, a court in the Saudi city of Medina found him guilty and sentenced him to death.

According to El Khansa, Sibat appealed the verdict. The case was taken up by the Court of Appeal in the Saudi city of Mecca on the grounds that the initial verdict was "premature."

El Khansa tells CNN that the Mecca appeals court then sent the case back to the original court for reconsideration, stipulating that all charges made against Sibat needed to be verified and that he should be given a chance to repent.

On March 10, judges in Medina upheld their initial verdict, meaning Sibat is once again sentenced to be executed.

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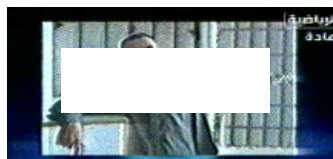
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Ali Hussain Sibat faces execution by beheading on Friday

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Video: Man awaits death sentence for 'sorcery'

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"The Medina court refused the sentence of the appeals court," said El Khansa, adding her client will appeal the verdict once more.

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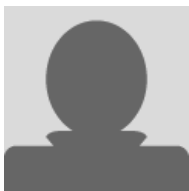
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maelcalc

maelcalc

The sad thing here is that they actually believe he is a socerer.

Keep religion out of governance.

0 minutes ago | [Like \(1\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



zipprian

zipprian

Just when I thought Arabs couldnt get any dumber....they go and do something like this. AND TOTALLY REDEEM THEMSELVES!

1 minute ago | [Like \(1\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



deepwater805

deepwater805

We in the west have all gotten used to whacked out Islamic militants doing barbaric stuff. It's in their job description. But now we see that the main stream court system in this holiest of Islamic countries has gone bonkers too. This kind of lunacy is why there's a growing feeling of mistrust in th ...[more](#)

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DeFace

DeFace

Personally, I see it as a form of sanctioned Satan worship.

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jbrunner1972

jbrunner1972

it's not just the lunacy, it's the complacency of mainstream islam permitting the extremism. in the west we lock our nuts up in institutions or send them to California. in the middle east they're rewarded with cabinet positions and instead of being infuriated at being treated sheeple the population ...more

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y2k34207

y2k34207

Careful what you write don't you people realize that many of you could be tried if you are identified and happen to be in Saudi Arabia, just because of some of the things you have said in your posts. This is for real.

4 minutes ago | [Like \(1\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



y2k34207

y2k34207

I just re-read my post and what is really scary is that it is true.

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jbrunner1972

jbrunner1972

i dont go to countries where they dont eat bacon. im pretty safe.

2 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



Coolg22

Coolg22

If this person really knows the future, then he should have predicted his own well being before his arrival to that country.

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battlecry97

battlecry97

DO you realize this would be the equivalent of an American getting arrested for eating ham their whole lives and being executed. Mind you the ham is eaten outside of Saudi Arabia. This is defiantly abuse of their own system as hard as that is to imagine.

5 minutes ago | [Like \(2\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



jbrunner1972

jbrunner1972

it's not an abuse of their system. it's an abuse of any rational system. notice the distinction.

4 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



Donxkena

Donxkena

The world should stop buying oil from Saudi Arabia. They're barbarians. Similar boycotts should be put in pace against China for the same reasons.

7 minutes ago | [Like](#) (1) | [Report abuse](#)



Shawn44

Shawn44

The Saudi's are bunch of primitive barbarians. I cannot wait until we finally wean ourselves off oil and just completely ignore the Middle East and let those animals kill each other all they want.

9 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



opAZ

opAZ

is beheading a sport in Suadi?

10 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



RalfAtCnn

RalfAtCnn

Frankly, people who can come with such "jokes" are equally mysterious to me as people who come up with such charges. Or perhaps I am just not cool enough. Anyway, I don't want to attack you, sorry. Please do some less funny stuff and sign this petition, Ok? Thanks! professor-fish dot blogspot dot co ...[more](#)

0 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



jbronner1972

jbronner1972

so is abducting young boys and tying them to camels to race. hence the term 'camel jockey', although i think the Emirates recently banned it. im not sure about S'audi.

6 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



jbronner1972

jbronner1972

yes.

9 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



sixthangel

sixthangel

he was in lebanon while doing the show. why was he captured in saudi? this is a bunch of crap. it's outrages and barbaric. what is up with saudi's law? it's insanely inhumane to sentence a guy who has a family and kids to death because he might be a soccerer.he didn't kill anyone! i usually respect a ...[more](#)

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RalfAtCnn

RalfAtCnn

I understand that you are outraged, but you are confusing quite a bit. Just a few examples. a) this case cannot be used to condemn Islam; this is about a jurisdictional system, in fact, a case, not the Islam. b) there is nothing per se unusual about charging a person in a country for a crime committ ...more

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DeFace

DeFace

It is a religion of war based on an adulterated version of the Holy Bible. All early converts were at the edge of a sword. Long before the Crusades, the muslims invaded west Europe by pain of death, it took Spain over 700 years to get the last of them out.

4 minutes ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



2SirReal

2SirReal

Message to Barak Obama: Ensure this man does not die! (tap LIKE if you agree).

13 minutes ago | [Like \(12\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



DeFace

DeFace

You cannot segue Barak Obama into this conversation, sorry.

1 minute ago | [Like](#) | [Report abuse](#)



jbronner1972

jbronner1972

Obama's too concerned with things like CNN catching him smacking flies and getting airtime out of the deal, instead of saving some poor schmuck who was dumb enough to step foot into S'audi.

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DeFace

DeFace

Can't do it. No more than the Saudi emir could get one of the 911 hijackers off.

11 minutes ago | [Like \(1\)](#) | [Report abuse](#)



dwight

dwight

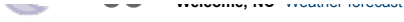
I thought that we were in the Middle East to liberate countries from this unjust form of religious freedom. I say that if Saudi Arabia beheads this guy for practicing his belief that did not harm anyone but only granted knowledge to his followers perhaps we should cut ties with Saudi Arabia and deal ...more

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