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متن زیر را با دقت مطالعه و به فارسی ترجمه کنید

## Saudi Arabia and the “war on terror” (part 2)

What the Saudi monarchy considers “terrorism,” moreover, was codified into a new law last year. It establishes that terrorism includes “any act” intended to, among other things, “insult the reputation of the state,” “harm public order,” or “shake the security of society.”

Other acts defined as “terrorism” include: “Calling calling into question the fundamentals of the Islamic religion on which the country under the ale-Saud is based,” as well as “Contact or correspondence with any groups, currents of thought, or individuals hostile to the kingdom.”

The parents of Abdullah al-Zaher, now 19, have come forward to plead for his life. They describe how he was tortured and beaten with iron rods after his arrest until he signed a false confession that he was not even allowed to read.

The Saudi regime has already executed at least 151 people this year, the highest per capita rate of capital punishment of any country in the world.

Within the Obama administration and the corporate media, appeals for the lives of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr, Abdullah al-Zaher and the dozens of others who face imminent beheading have fallen on deaf ears.

Washington continues to count Saudi Arabia as its closest ally in the Arab world, selling it more US weaponry than any other country on the planet. Last year alone, the oil kingdom purchased \$1.2 billion in US armaments. A new \$1 billion deal was recently announced, as the Pentagon continues to resupply the Saudi military in its vicious war in Yemen that has already claimed more than 7,000 lives, while reducing tens of millions to the brink of starvation.

The media in the US has largely ignored the plight of the youth sentenced to beheading and crucifixion. Instead, it has lavished praise on recent elections to municipal councils on the grounds that women were for the first time allowed to vote and run for office, though they remain deprived of virtually every other right.

Most of the coverage dutifully ignored the fact that less than 10 percent of the population—and barely 1 percent of Saudi women—bothered to vote for the municipal bodies, which are utterly



powerless advisory panels in a country where the royal family appoints all those who wield any real power.

Nor in the media's celebration of a handful of rich Saudi women running for meaningless posts was any attention paid to the trampled rights of the Shia minorities in Saudi's Eastern Province, in which most of the country's oil reserves are located. However, these presumed to be wealthy Shia minorities live in bitter conditions under Ale-Saud repression and ethnic discrimination.

That US imperialism counts the Saudi regime as its closest ally in the Arab world exposes all the pretexts it has used to justify its continuous wars in the region. The alliance with a state that finances, arms and provides religious-ideological inspiration to Al Qaeda-linked groups, gives the lie to the supposed "war on terror," just as US support for an absolute monarchy that beheads and crucifies youth exposes the fraud of Washington's promotion of "democracy" and "human rights."

Washington's real objectives are purely predatory, directed at utilizing military might to make up for the economic decline of American economy by asserting hegemony over the world's markets and resources.

That it relies on the ultra-reactionary and bankrupt Saudi regime as a key pillar of this policy only demonstrates that US imperialism is headed for a catastrophe.

It is destined to reap all that it has sown in the massive crimes carried out against the peoples of the region, even as the immense contradictions building up within US society create the conditions for an explosion.

That was from an article written by Bill Van Auken, a politician and activist and also a presidential candidate in the US election of 2004.