**GOOD NEWS JUST IN ....!**

We have just learnt that Saudi Arabia’s Supreme Court has thrown out **Abdullah al Howaiti’s** conviction for a crime he couldn’t have committed. This isn’t the end of Abdullah’s story of injustice. Under Saudi law there must now be a retrial in the case. Lawyers working for him are calling for the public prosecutor to withdraw its request for the death penalty and for Abdullah’s torture-tainted ‘confession’ to be ruled inadmissible as evidence.

Abdullah was abducted from his family home in May 2017. He was locked up for months and tortured. His family had no idea where he was. He was forced to ‘confess’ to a crime he couldn’t have committed. He was sentenced to death in October 2019 and has been on death row ever since. But this should never have happened. He was 14 years old – a child – at the time of the alleged crime. He has an alibi, supported by the statements of his friends, his mother, and CCTV footage recorded in a court document: Abdullah was at the seafront 200km away from the scene of the crime when it took place.

We welcome the quashing of the conviction but urge the authorities not to pursue the case in a retrial.