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Dear Eric,

During the Statement on Saudi Arabia on Wednesday 24 April, you asked in making private representations, what difference has there been in Saudi Arabia's attitude when we see evidence of these executions? I am sorry that I was unable to respond to you at the time and I promised to investigate the point you raised.

Our relationship with Saudi Arabia is built on longstanding connections and on constructive and frank engagement. There are areas where we differ on policy and approach, including the use of the death penalty. We raise areas of concern with the Saudi authorities regularly and freely using a range of Ministerial and diplomatic channels of communication, including our ambassador and the Embassy team in Riyadh. We believe that continued and constructive engagement on these issues helps develop mutual understanding and supports gradual change. We have seen significant social and economic change in Saudi Arabia in recent years and we continue to work with them to promote and support further progress.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also place a copy in the House library.

Yours sincerely,  
Annabel

BARONESS GOLDIE

Lord Pickles  
House of Lords