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## Gay Man in Saudi Arabia Sentenced to Jail and 450 Lashes

July 23, 2014 by [Hayley Miller, Digital Media Associate](#) (</blog/author/hayley-miller/>)

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A gay man in Saudi Arabia was sentenced to three years in jail and 450 lashes after sending tweets that allegedly promoted his sexual orientation.

The man, 24, [was arrested](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/07/23/saudi-man-jailed-and-to-receive-450-lashes-over-twitter-homosexual-contacts/) (<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/07/23/saudi-man-jailed-and-to-receive-450-lashes-over-twitter-homosexual-contacts/>) by the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, informally known as the religious police, after sending tweets that referenced a willingness to meet other gay men. He was arrested after meeting with an undercover agent.

According to [GulfNews.com](http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/gay-man-sentenced-for-twitter-debauchery-in-saudi-arabia-1.1363181) (<http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/gay-man-sentenced-for-twitter-debauchery-in-saudi-arabia-1.1363181>), his phone was used as evidence to show photos and messages that revealed his sexual orientation.

Homosexuality is punishable by fines, flogging, imprisonment, and even death in Saudi Arabia. Last year in the region, a government official from Kuwait announced that it was developing a medical test to “detect” someone’s sexual orientation and prevent gay visitors from entering any of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which includes Saudi Arabia.

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