

# Saudi Arabia, Our Friend And Ally

by Hugh Fitzgerald



The State Department has just issued its annual report on religious freedom around the world.

Saudi Arabia, to judge by the language of the report, vied with North Korea as the worst offender. The Saudis, Rex Tillerson said, ought to “embrace greater degrees of religious freedom for all of its citizens.” He cited criminal penalties – but did not explain that for some of those “crimes” the penalty is death – for apostasy, atheism, blasphemy, and insulting the Saudi state’s interpretation of Islam, as well as discrimination against, and attacks targeting, Shi’ite Muslims.

He did not mention the ferocious warfare now being conducted against pockets of Shi’a resistance to the Saudi Wahhabis, that receives so little attention, though he might have produced videos of the complete flattening, in recent weeks, of the Musawara district, with its 400-year old buildings, in

the Shi'a town of Awamiya, which can be seen [\*Jihad Watch\*](#).