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European Parliament News (26.01.2017) - <http://bit.ly/2jTAp9P> - The newly elected Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D, IT), made the following statement on behalf of the Subcommittee:

"Yesterday Kuwait hanged seven prisoners - four men and three women-, the first executions carried out since 2013. Those executed included a Bangladeshi, a Filipina, an Ethiopian, two Kuwaitis and two Egyptians, according to a statement carried on the state-run KUNA news agency.

These executions follow the very recent executions in Bahrain on 15 January of Abbas al-Samea, Sami Mushaima, and Ali Abdulshaheed Yousef al-Singace, the first to be carried out in Bahrain since 2010 - and, according to Amnesty International, after an unfair trial and despite claims from the men that they were tortured in custody.

In Bahrain two other Bahrainis, Mohamed Ramadan and Husain Ali Moosa, appear to be at imminent risk of execution.

The EU considers capital punishment to be a cruel and inhuman punishment which fails to act as a deterrent to criminal behaviour. The abolition of the death penalty worldwide represents one of the main objectives of the EU's human rights policy.

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I deeply deplore the decisions by both Kuwait and Bahrain to resume executions despite the worldwide trend towards abolition. Instead of stepping up executions the Kuwaiti and Bahraini authorities should put in place an immediate moratorium on executions and work towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty."
