

Saudi child 'files for divorce'

Wednesday 5 May 2010, by [BBC](#) (Date first published: 24 August 2008).

A court in Saudi Arabia is reported to be preparing to hear a plea for divorce from an eight-year-old girl who has been married off to a man in his 50s.

The Saudi newspaper *al-Watan* said the girl had been married off to the man by her father without her knowledge.

The child's mother is thought to be pushing for the marriage to be annulled - though the father opposes the move.

In April, a court in neighbouring Yemen annulled the arranged marriage of another eight-year-old girl.

She had been married to a 28-year-old man.

Child-protection groups say children are often given away in return for hefty dowries, or as a result of old customs in which a father promises his infant daughters and sons to cousins out of a belief that marriage will protect them from illicit relationships.

Activists have called for an end to the practice.

P.S.

* Source: BBC News, Page last updated at 09:20 GMT, Sunday, 24 August 2008 10:20 UK:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/world/middle_east/7579616.stm