

# With Autocratic Regimes Human Rights are Non Existent



SANAD'S 2021 ANNUAL REPORT  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

# Contents

<b>1. Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Unending arrests and continued enforced disappearances</b>	<b>4</b>
July arrests in Abha	
November arrests	
Other arrests	
Continued arrests of women	
<b>3. A legal crisis</b>	<b>16</b>
Farcical trials	
<b>4. Illegitimate prisons</b>	<b>20</b>
Denial of rights	
Torture inside prisons	
Deliberate medical negligence	
Murder in prisons	
Minors in prisons of the regime	
<b>5. Executions without crimes</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6. Restrictions on freedom of movement</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7. Expropriation and forced displacement</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8. Stateless citizens (Bidoon)</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>9. Recommendations</b>	<b>32</b>

# 1. Summary

Despite numerous international reports of brutality and repression of the Saudi regime, as well as international human rights organisations calling for Saudi Arabia to improve its human rights record and move towards real reform; and despite the attempts of the Saudi regime to improve its image in front of the West with claims of reform and media propaganda giving the delusion of rights being preserved; the daily practices and repeated violations being committed confirm that the human rights record of the Saudi regime in 2021 is very much behind, and its violations and transgressions are on the rise.

It seems that the Saudi authorities have not yet realised the dangers of continuing its brutal policies of repression against academics, intellectuals, activists, jurists and journalists, despite warnings issued by human rights organisations amid fears of an increase in the severity of brutal repression and a deterioration of the human rights file in the country.

The incessant heinous practices of human rights violations and the continued policy of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and brutal torture inside prisons confirms that the Saudi regime is adamant to continue to pursue these policies in managing the country. This is in addition to depriving detainees of their basic rights, as well as the deliberate medical negligence they are subjected to inside detention centres. Moreover, the clear legal imbalance in dealing with detainees' cases, including their arbitrary arrest without a warrant or judicial order; the conditions of their detention and enforced disappearance; and the sham trials that lack the most basic standards of justice, in addition to the unfair and lengthy sentences issued against some, or the prosecution threatening the public by imposing the above on those who merely exercised their natural right to express an opinion.

The Saudi judiciary lacks the basic legal and criminal standards in dealing with prisoners of conscience in the Kingdom, and despite claims made by the Saudi Crown Prince in early February 2021 of developing the legislative system and improving the penal system, these claims did not see the light of day. Indeed, transgressions of the Saudi judiciary affect prisoners of conscience, between unfair rulings, delaying court hearings, many without a valid reason, in addition to the sham trials lacking the most basic standards of justice. Saudi authorities have delayed the trial of a large number of prisoners of conscience, postponing some without giving any valid reason or justification. An example of this is the trial of Dr Salman al-Ouda, which has been stalled and postponed for nearly three years. The same is true with detainees Dr Hassan Farhan al-Maliki and the journalist Zuhair Qutbi.

The Public Prosecution has demanded the death penalty for a number of scholars and thinkers, such as Dr Salman al-Ouda, Dr Awad al-Qarni, Dr Ali al-Omari and Dr Hassan Farhan al-Maliki. The court issued harsh sentences spanning decades against others such as AbdulRahman al-Sadhan who was sentenced by the Specialised Criminal Court to twenty years in prison on charges related to expressing his opinion. The same happened with human rights defender Khalid al-Omair, who was imprisoned for nine years, and journalist Khalid al-Mahawesh for 10 years, as well as many others.

Cases of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances have continued throughout 2021. Sanad has monitored more than 30 cases of arbitrary arrests in Saudi Arabia during 2021, where more than 80% were subjected to enforced disappearance for periods ranging between two weeks and five months. It appears that the Saudi regime continues to silence all voices demanding rights and freedoms through raids, arrests, kidnappings and enforced disappearance.

In 2021, prison conditions in Saudi Arabia were still tragic, brimming with cases of torture and neglect against prisoners of conscience. There are those who have been neglected medically, left to suffer until they die, or those tortured physically until they meet their demise. It seems that the Saudi government, together with its security and justice institutions, is adopting a policy of systematic restrictions against detainees to increase their suffering inside prisons. This includes deliberate medical neglect, where authorities don't provide detainees with the necessary medical care, thus exposing them to the risk of slow death. The regime believes this is less costly to the international community.

The executions' file remains a thorny issue in Saudi Arabia, as the regime exploits it politically to exterminate its opponents and uses it as a method to deter violators. In 2021, even children who were accused of participating in demonstrations to defend rights, such as Mustafa Al-Darwish, faced this penalty, despite their age.

In 2021, the brutality of the regime continued to haunt detainees, even after their release. Indeed, their freedom is withheld and their voices suppressed. They cannot speak nor express their opinions, and their freedom of movement is restricted by preventing them from traveling. They are spied on and their movements are tracked.

The files of forced disappearance and demolition of property are still ongoing. After confiscating the lands of Al-Huwaitat's sons in 2020, 2021 witnessed several displacement operations in various regions in the Kingdom, mainly in Riyadh and Asir, as well as the heinous demolitions that are currently underway in Jeddah. What the regime is doing against its citizens is a blatant violation of the most important of human rights, namely housing. Instead of providing housing for its citizens, the government has demolished homes and displaced its residents under false pretexts.

In 2021, the Bidoon (stateless citizens) issue did not see an improvement despite demands of human rights organisations for Saudi Arabia to reform and close this file and stop the 'snowball' from expanding. Despite a number of personalities being granted Saudi citizenship, the Bidoon file is still open with no immediate solution on the horizon. On the contrary, there is an escalation in the number of violations against these citizens, with a lack of access to basic individual rights, such as education and health.

Sanad presents its annual report on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia and what it monitored in 2021 of rights, violations and infringements on freedoms.

## 2. Unending arrests and continued enforced disappearances

The Saudi regime continues its practice of arbitrary arrests, raids and enforced disappearances without the minimum standards of criminal and legal proceedings.

The year 2021 was not better than previous years in this regard. During 2021, the Saudi regime arrested a number of media professionals, activists, academics and influencers in its continued approach of arbitrary arrests, house raids and enforced disappearance against every voice that expresses opinion.

It is very difficult to list all the arrests, arbitrary practices and enforced disappearances that have been carried out by the regime against its citizens in the absence of transparency, freedom of press, and proper legal procedures. People are forcibly taken from their homes without an arrest warrant or court order, and may be forcibly disappeared for a few months at a time without any knowledge of where they are being held.

In this context, Skyline International for Human Rights called on the international community to take serious action to pressure Saudi authorities to stop their policy of repression by continuing illegitimate arrests of social media activists, academics and advocates, merely for expressing their views. Skyline International also warned of the absolute disregard by international bodies, which ultimately gives Saudi authorities the green light to exercise any form of repression against those who express opinion.

We believe that the silence of the international community - with its governments, organisations - and their failure to take clear practical steps against the regime's practices, is what has emboldened the regime to carry out more violations, ultimately eradicating all freedoms.



The following is a summary of the most important cases of arbitrary arrests that were monitored by Sanad during 2021:

## July arrests in Abha

Saudi authorities arbitrarily arrested a number of academics and notable members of the community in the south-west Saudi city of Abha in July, without legal or criminal justification:

### Dr Muhammad bin Ali Al-Hazmi

Al-Hazmi is an academic, writer, and Professor of the Arabic Language and Literature at King Khalid University. He was born in the Jazan region of south Saudi Arabia, and he comes from a noble family, with his lineage descending from the household of the prophet Muhammad. He is a notable personality in the southern region of Saudi, and has had pioneering social and humanitarian activity. It was confirmed to Sanad that security forces comprising of 24 people raided his house on Wednesday, June 7, 2021, searching and scattering its contents before arresting Dr Al-Hazmi and taking him to an unknown location.



### Dr Ali bin Hassan Al-Almai

Al-Almai is a Professor of Theology and Contemporary Doctrines at King Khalid University, and is the Imam and preacher of Othman Al-Ghamdi Mosque in Al-Areen, Abha. He had various advocacy and academic activities through lectures and classes carried out at his mosque and in various cities in the southern region. Security forces raided his house, arrested and detained him without anyone knowing where he was held for a few weeks.



### Dr Qasim Ahmed Al-Qathradi

Al-Qathrad is a Professor at King Khalid University and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tarateel for the memorisation of the Holy Qur'an in Rijal Almaa Governorate, south-west Saudi Arabia. He undertook social and advocacy activities, including lecturing in a number of mosques. Security forces raided his house and arrested him, as well as a number of his children and grandchildren who were with him in the house. His children and grandchildren were released at dawn the next day, but Dr Qasim remains in detention.



## Dr Rashid Hassan Al-Almai

Al-Almai is a retired academic who worked as a Professor of Theology and Contemporary Doctrines at King Khalid University. He used to deliver raising-awareness lectures in Abha and in the Rijal Almaa governorate. Indeed, he is a symbolic figure in the Rijal Almaa governorate. He is old and suffers from hypertension and diabetes, and has recently been finding it difficult to walk and move due to his illness and age.



## Mr Muhammad Yahya Kadwan

Kadwan is a retired teacher who is currently the director of the Al-Bir Association in Rijal Almaa governorate. He undertakes various social and humanitarian activities within the governorate.



**For more details on this file, you can refer to Sanad's report on the arrests of Abha**



# November arrests

Sanad also monitored the arrests of a number of personalities in November 2021:



Dr **Ali Al-Tawati Al-Qurashi**: It was confirmed by Sanad via internal sources that Saudi security forces had arrested Al-Qurashi because of tweets on his personal Twitter account criticising UAE policies. Dr Al-Qurashi is a retired officer, military expert, and political and economic analyst. He is a writer in the newspapers 'Okaz' and 'Al-Riyadh'. He also held several positions in the Ministry of Defence and at the private College of Business Administration in Jeddah. He holds a doctorate in Regional Economics and Public Finance from Syracuse University in the United States.

The Saudi regime also arbitrarily arrested Dr **Fahd bin Saleh Al-Ajlan** on Wednesday, November 24, 2021. Sanad was informed that the reason for his arrest was because of his tweets on Twitter, expressing his opinion. Al-Ajlan is a Professor in the Department of Islamic Studies at the College of Education at King Saud University, and has many academic publications and research.



Saudi security forces arrested Dr **Abdul-Aziz bin Ahmed Al-Hamidi** arbitrarily and without a warrant on November 24 in Makkah. There is no knowledge of the reasons and circumstances of his arrest. Dr Al-Hamidi is a Professor of Theology and Contemporary Doctrines at Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah.



Human rights sources also revealed that a faculty member at King Faisal University, Dr **Mahmoud Al-Mubarak**, was recently arbitrarily arrested without charges or a warrant. The reasons and place of his arrest are not yet known. Dr **Al-Mubarak** is a faculty member at King Faisal University in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.



Journalist **Ali Mohsen Abu Lahoum** was arbitrarily arrested by state security forces. Sanad received information that the Yemeni journalist was arrested in front of his house in Najran. Tweets from fake accounts were published with expressed opinions and security authorities accused him of being behind them. Abu Lahoum denied any connection with the tweets.

The Saudi regime also arrested Dr **Muhammad Matar Al-Sahli** in early November, with no known reason for his arrest. According to information received by Sanad from inside sources, **Al-Sahli's** arrest was cruel and brutal, with security forces raiding his house, tying both his hands and feet with chains, before taking him to an unknown location, all without a court order or arrest warrant.



Saudi security re-arrested Dr **Khaled Al-Ajimi** after he was released in August 2021. Sanad learned from its sources that the reason behind his re-arrest was his failure to abide by the house arrest penalty that was imposed on him without legal justification. An electronic surveillance bracelet had been attached to his foot, and upon leaving his house, security forces re-arrested him. **Dr Al-Ajimi** is a Professor of the Arabic Language and its Sciences at the Imam Muhammad bin Saud University and he is the Assistant Secretary-General of the International Islamic Campaign to Confront Aggression. He has made many contributions in establishing charitable organisations, NGOs and civil society organisations inside and outside Saudi Arabia.



Saudi state security arrested Dr **Amer Matrouk Al-Falih**, former advisor to the Ministry of Planning and Economy, as he was leaving his home in Irqa neighbourhood in Riyadh on Saturday, November 21, according to his father. Dr Al-Falih was forcibly disappeared for nearly two weeks before authorities called and informed his family that he was being held by them, without giving any reasons. He was then released in early December after his father appealed to the king and crown prince via tweets on Twitter. He was released without charges or a trial.

## Other arrests

Dr **Omar bin Abdullah Al-Sa'doun** was arbitrarily arrested by Saudi security forces in June 2021 in Riyadh for expressing his opinion. He was arrested for an article criticising the decision to shut down mosque loudspeakers. He was then released in October without charges or a trial. Dr Omar bin Abdullah Al-Sa'doun was the head of the Irqah Notarial Office in Riyadh, and a legal advisor in Islamic financial jurisprudence and dispute settlement at the Judicial Scientific Society.

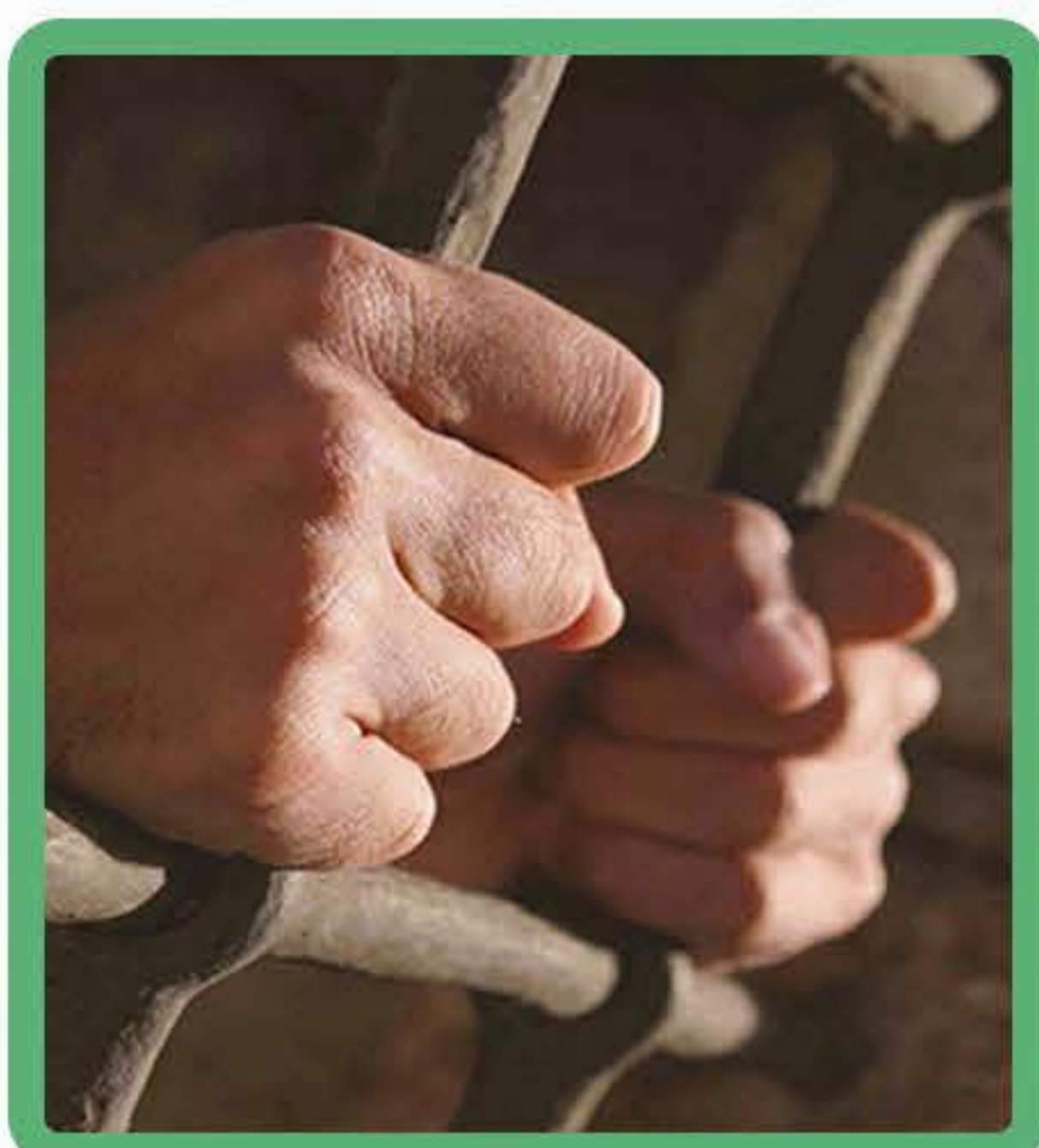


Press sources also revealed that Saudi authorities had carried out a massive arrest campaign against military personnel on charges of loyalty to the former Crown Prince Muhammad bin Nayef. Sources said that the campaign of new arrests targeted military personnel, members of the Ministry of Interior, soldiers and army officers. Sources confirmed that the arrest campaign was a result of the fear Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had of bin Nayef's influence and of the possibility of an internal coup against him.

Saudi security forces also arrested social media activist **Abdullah bin Awad Al-Mubarki**, in late July 2021, from his home in the city of Yanbu. Al-Mubarki was arrested for expressing his opinion and for his human rights activism on social media platforms.



Saudi security forces also arrested the father of US activist, of Uyghur origin, **Saleh Hudayar**, in the Grand Mosque in Makkah. This was after Hudayar expressed his opinion by holding up a t-shirt that read: "Pray for the end of occupation and genocide committed by China in occupied East Turkestan." His son confirmed, through his Twitter account, that he was arrested by Saudi security inside the Grand Mosque.



Sanad also sourced information that state security forces had arrested Professor **Muhammad Al-Ezzi**, a notable figure in Saudi's Eastern Province. Sources for Sanad confirmed that Al-Ezzi was arrested while walking in the street, and his house and office were subsequently raided, searched and had their contents scattered. According to private sources, the reason for his arrest was because of his social media activity expressing his opinions.

Authorities also raided the home of 29-year old **Abdullah Youssef Jilan** because of sarcastic political tweets he posted on a fake Twitter account. In a video recording obtained by Sanad, Jilan's fiancée confirmed that she had lost contact with him since mid-May 2021, and his friends informed her that he was detained by security forces. His fiancée expressed her fears of his assassination, saying: "I'm afraid and terrified, and I don't know anything about him. I do not know if he is dead or alive, and I'm afraid he will suffer the same fate as the journalist Jamal Khashoggi."

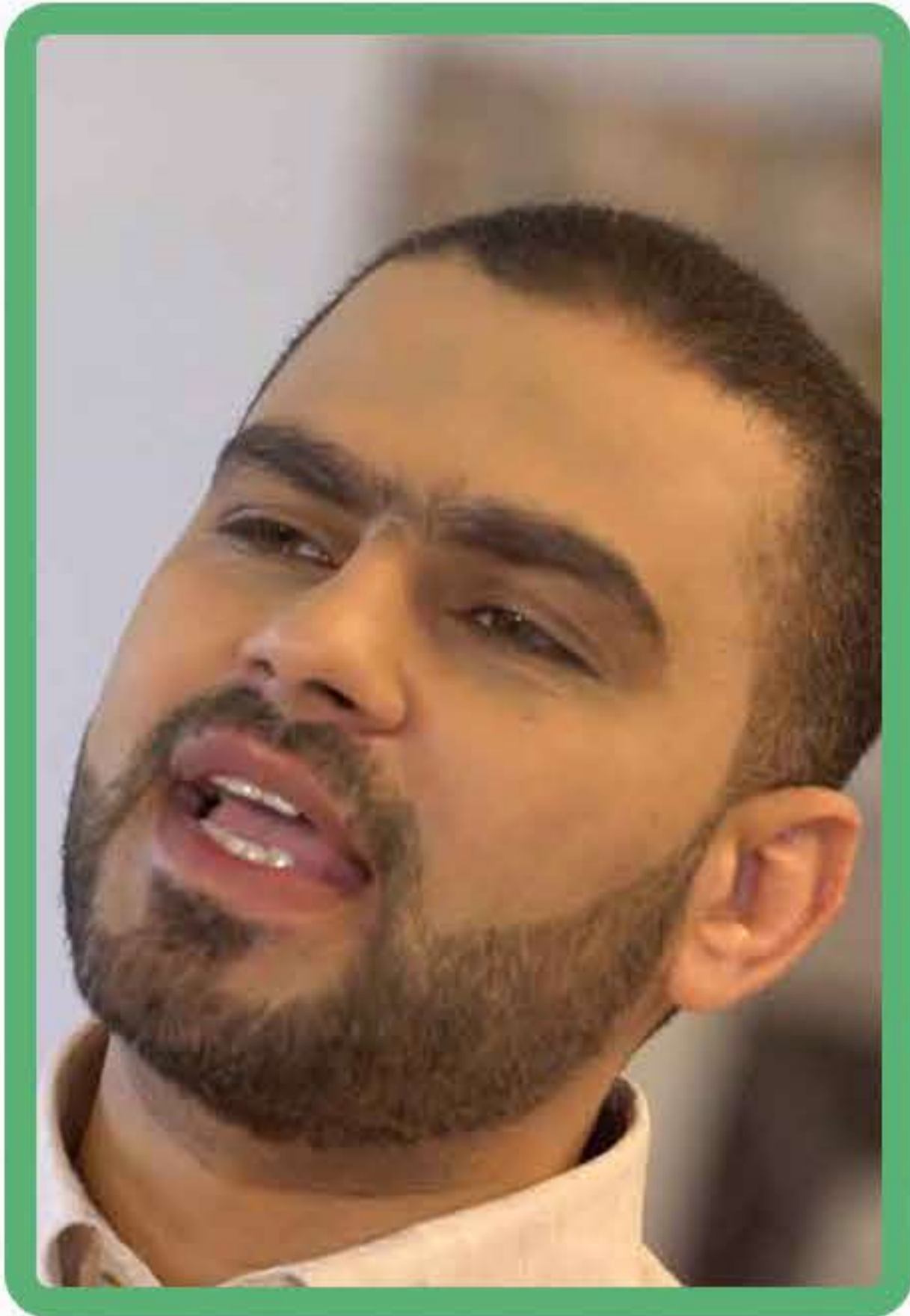


For the same reason as Jilan, **AbdulRahman Al-Sheikhi**, born in 1995, was arrested in Jeddah on May 18, 2021 when he was subjected to enforced disappearance. He had posted tweets via a fake account on Twitter calling for job opportunities for young people, and criticising the unemployment that prevailed in the country.

Sanad also sourced information about the arrest of Sheikh **Amer Ahmed Al-Muhalhal** from outside his mosque in Jeddah, in the Saudi regime's campaign against intellectuals and preachers. Sheikh Al-Muhalhal is the imam and preacher of Khadija bint Khuwailid Mosque in Jeddah, and is considered one of the most prominent and well-known reciters in the Kingdom.



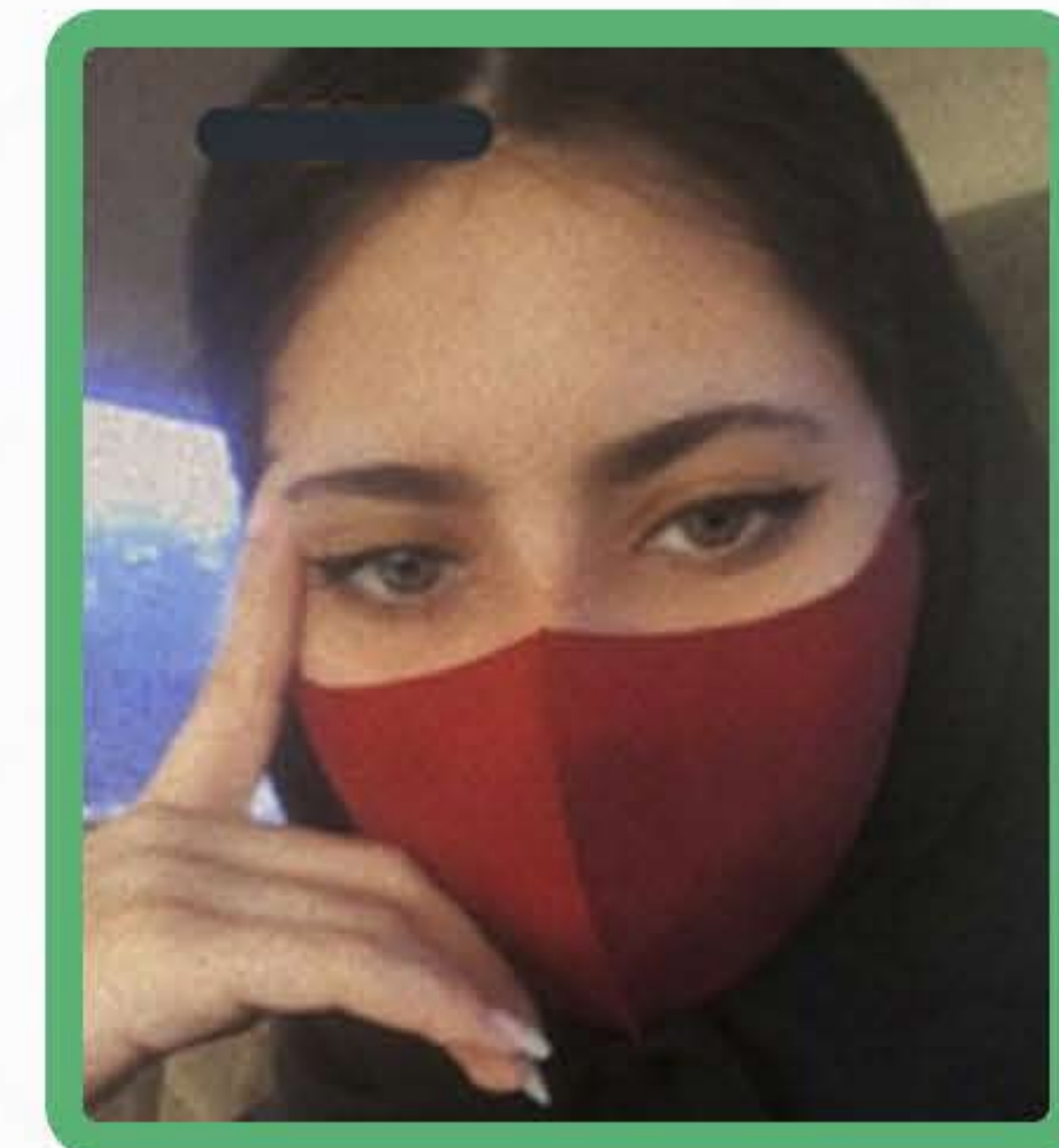
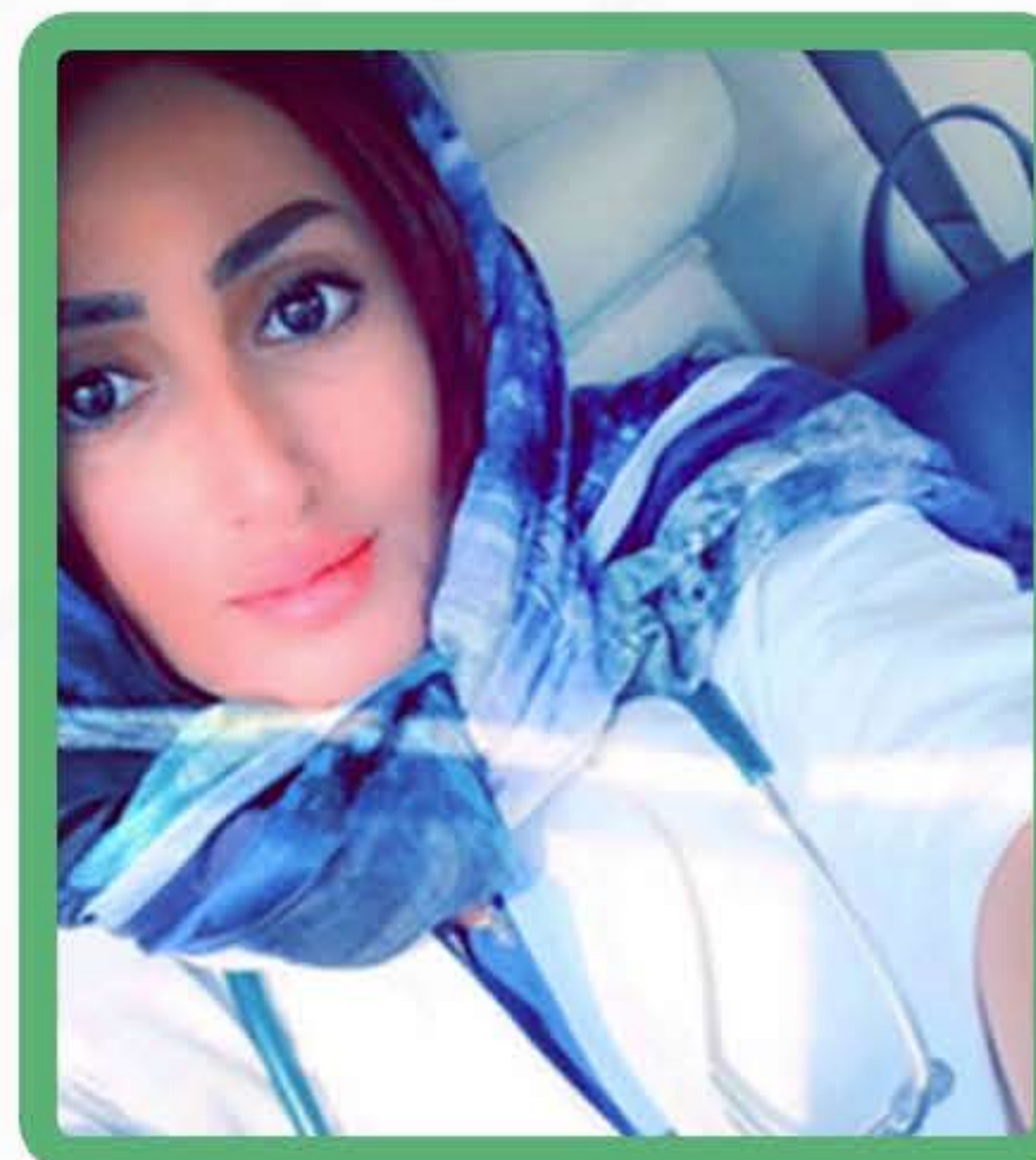
Human rights sources also reported the arrest of academic Dr **Saud Al-Sarhan**, former head of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh. He received his doctorate from the University of Exeter in the UK and has many researches and publications discussing the status of political currents in Islam, and writing about the 2030 vision in his research. Al-Sarhan was subjected to enforced disappearance in October 2021 after which news of him was cut off. Several months later, news of his arrest was revealed.



Cases of arrests and enforced disappearances were not confined to the Kingdom, but rather went beyond its geographical borders to affect people abroad. Saudi-Australian Dr **Osama Al-Hasani**, 42 years old, was arrested by Moroccan security at Rabat airport in late February, 2021, at the request of Saudi Arabia. He was handed over to the Saudi regime on March 13, 2021, after which he was subjected to enforced disappearance for nearly five months. Following international pressure, the Criminal Court issued an arbitrary sentence against Dr Al-Hasani for four years imprisonment although no charges were issued against him, and he was previously found innocent of the charges the authorities claimed to have arrested him for.

# Unceasing arrests of women

In 2021, the Saudi regime continued its approach of arresting and abusing female activists who demanded their rights. In June 2021, Saudi security arrested activist **Asmaa Al-Subaie and Dr Lina Al-Sharif** for their peaceful human rights activism and for expressing their opinions. Their whereabouts and condition of detention remains unknown.



Subsequently, security forces arrested bloggers **Rina Abdel-Aziz and Yasmin El-Ghofaili** for tweets they posted. Saudi authorities also arrested 65-year-old **Aisha Al-Muhajiri** in February 2021 because of her advocacy and social activities; she was teaching Qur'an to women and girls in her home.

Security forces also arrested **Fatima Asiri** - the wife of detainee **Muhammad Kadwan** - in August 2021, three weeks after her husband's arrest. The reasons and circumstances of her arrest are unknown. This criminal approach of violations comes within the regime's repressive policy of arresting relatives and families of detainees to apply pressure and psychologically torture them.



The Saudi regime also arrested social media activist **Zaynab Al-Hashemi** as she was returning to Saudi Arabia to attend her father's funeral. She was arrested because of tweets she posted on her Twitter account, including a tweet calling for rights and a solution to the unemployment problem in the Kingdom. She was forcibly disappeared for nearly five months without charges or a hearing.

**It seems that the calls to empower women in Saudi Arabia and give them more rights are just a facade behind which the regime wants to hide its violations. Campaigns to arrest activists and demands for rights continue.**

## Names of detainees monitored by Sanad during 2021

Name	Occupation	Date and place of arrest	Violations
Dr Mohammed bin Ali Al-Hazmi	Academic and community activist	June, Abha	Security force comprising of 24 people raided his house, arbitrarily arrested him and forcibly disappeared him for a few months
Dr Ali bin Hassan Al-Almai	Academic and advocacy activist	June, Abha	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Dr Qasim bin Ahmed Al-Qathradi	Academic and advocacy activist	June, Abha	A large team of security forces raided his house and arrested him and a number of his children and grandchildren who were present
Dr Rashid bin Hassan Al-Almai	Academic and advocacy activist	June, Abha	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Muhammad bin Yahya Kadwan	Community and humanitarian activist	June, Abha	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Fatima Asiri	Teacher	June, Abha	She was arbitrarily arrested weeks after the arrest of her husband, Muhammad Kadwan, to add pressure and psychologically torture him
Dr Ali Touati Al-Qurashi	Retired officer and military expert	November, Makkah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared due to tweets criticising UAE policy
Dr Fahd bin Saleh Al-Ajlan	Academic and advocacy activist	November, Riyadh	Arbitrarily arrested for expressing an opinion
Dr Abdul Aziz bin Ahmed Al-Hamidi	Academic and advocacy activist	November, Makkah	Arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared for several weeks for expressing his views
Dr Mahmoud Mubarak	Academic	November, Ihsa'	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Ali Mohsen Abu Lahoum	Journalist	November, Najran	Arbitrarily arrested due to tweets posted on fake accounts which security authorities accused him of being behind. Abu Lahoum denied any connection them. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.
Dr Mohammed bin Matar Al-Sahli	Academic and community activist	November, Makkah	Arbitrarily arrested. His arrest was cruel and brutal, as members of security forces raided his house and chained both his hands and feet.
Dr Khaled Al-Ajimi	Academic and humanitarian	November, Riyadh	Re-arrested while under house arrest following his first arrest
Dr Amer bin Matruk Al-Faleh	Economic consultant	November, Riyadh	Forcibly disappeared for nearly two weeks before authorities called and informed his family that he was being held by them, without stating the reasons. He was released in December without charges.
Dr Omar bin Abdullah Al-Saadoun	Legal consultant and advisor	June, Riyadh	Arbitrarily detained for an article criticising the decision to shut down mosque loudspeakers. He was released in October.

Name	Occupation	Date and place of arrest	Violations
Abdullah bin Awad Al-Mubarki	Social media activist	July, Jeddah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Saleh Hidayar's father	Humanitarian activist	October, Makkah	Arbitrarily arrested from the Great Mosque of Makkah for raising a T-shirt calling for an end to the occupation and genocide committed by China against Uyghur Muslims.
Mohammed Al-Ezzi	A notable figure in Saudi's Eastern Province	November, Dammam	Arbitrarily arrested while walking in the street; his house and office were raided and searched, and the contents were scattered. He remains forcibly disappeared.
Abdullah Yusuf Gilan	Social media activist	May, Jeddah	Arrested because of tweets from a satirical account. He was subjected to enforced disappearance; his family did not know of his arrest until two months later.
Abdul Rahman Sheikhi	Social media activist	May, Jeddah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared because of his demands to end the unemployment problem through a fake Twitter account
Amer bin Ahmed Al-Muhalhal	Community and advocacy activist	June, Jeddah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Dr Saud Sarhan	Academic	October, Riyadh	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for several weeks
Dr Osama Al-Hasani	Academic and businessman	February, Ribat (Morocco)	Arrested in Morocco at the request of the Saudi government, after which he was subjected to enforced disappearance for several months
Asmaa Al-Subaie	Human rights activist	June, Jeddah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for tweets defending human rights
Dr Lina Sharif	Human rights activist	May, Makkah	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for tweets defending human rights
Rina Abdel Aziz	Human rights activist	May, Al-Qasim	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for tweets defending human rights
Zainab Al-Hashemi	Human rights activist	May	Arbitrarily arrested upon her return to Saudi to attend her father's funeral. She was forcibly disappeared for five months.
Yasmine Al-Ghufaili	Human rights activist	May, Al-Qasim	Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared for tweets defending human rights
Aisha Al-Muhajiri	Advocacy activist	February, Makkah	Despite being of advanced age, she was arbitrarily arrested because of her advocacy activities and teaching Qur'an



## 3. A legal crisis

In addition to the fact that courts in Saudi Arabia lack the most basic legal standards, such as permitting the appointment of a lawyer, having public hearings and presenting a clear indictment, Saudi courts issue arbitrary and unfair rulings against defendants without clear evidence, forming decisions based only on presumptions.

Heba Morayef, director of the Middle East and North Africa regional office at Amnesty International, said that the Saudi government is using the Specialised Criminal Court to create a false aura of legitimacy around its misuse of the counter-terrorism law to silence its critics.

We believe the danger began before the court's procedures - the laws of the Public Prosecution were legislated to silence those who demanded rights and who express their opinions. For example, the "Information Crimes" law approved by the Public Prosecution is only a means to restrict freedom of opinion and expression in Saudi Arabia and arrest anyone who violates it. The regime imposes a five-year prison sentence and a fine of three million Saudi riyals for anyone who expresses an opinion contrary to the directives of the authority through social media.

### Farcical trials

In 2021, more trials that lacked the most basic standards of justice took place against a number of activists and media professionals. A number of unfair rulings were issued that raised eyebrows of human rights organisations worldwide. Here are the most prominent ones:

A Saudi court sentenced Sudanese journalist **Ahmed Ali Abdelkader** to four years in prison with charges of insulting state institutions and speaking negatively about the kingdom's policies. Abdelkader had posted tweets on his Twitter account expressing support for the Sudanese revolution in 2018 and criticised Saudi Arabia's policies in Sudan and Yemen. The journalist was arbitrarily arrested by security forces on April 19, 2020, upon his arrival at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah. He was detained at the police station for 20 days before he was transferred to Al-Shmaisi prison in Makkah.



Sanad sourced information that Abdelkader was subjected to physical torture and denied access to a lawyer as well as any communication with his family.

Michael Page, Deputy Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch, emphasised that: “Jailing a media personality on bogus charges speaks more negatively about Saudi Arabia’s policies than anything **Ahmad Ali Abdelkader** ever posted.”

The Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh also issued verdicts against Palestinian detainees on Sunday, August 8, 2021. According to Sanad’s sources, the sentences issued by the court ranged from three years to 22 years imprisonment. Among the most prominent detainees who were sentenced to arbitrary sentences were: Dr **Hani Muhammad Al-Khudari** for 3 years; Dr **Muhammad Al-Khudari** for 15 years; **Muhammad Al-Abed** for 22 years; **Muhammad Al-Banna** for 20 years; **Ayman Al-Arian** for 19 years; Muhammad Abu Al-Rub for 18 years; Sherif Nasrallah for 16 years; **Jamal Al-Dahoudi** for 15 years; and **Omar Arif Al-Hajj** for 12 years.

The Specialised Court in Riyadh held a group hearing for 69 detainees of Palestinian and Jordanian nationalities, including ten with Saudi citizenship. These arbitrary rulings confirm that the regime stands against freedom of opinion and expression, and confronts those who support the Palestinian cause at the expense of human rights. These violations expose the state to more international condemnations.



In continuation with its illegitimate approach, the Saudi judiciary postponed the hearing of detained activist, Abdul-Rahman Al-Sadhan, which was scheduled in response to the charges and sentences issued against him. A number of websites reported that the Court of Appeal on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, postponed the hearing for **Abdul-Rahman Al-Sadhan**. The session was scheduled to take place on September 13, 2021, but the court adjourned the session to be on August 17, but then it adjourned it on the morning of the session without giving any reason or re-scheduling.

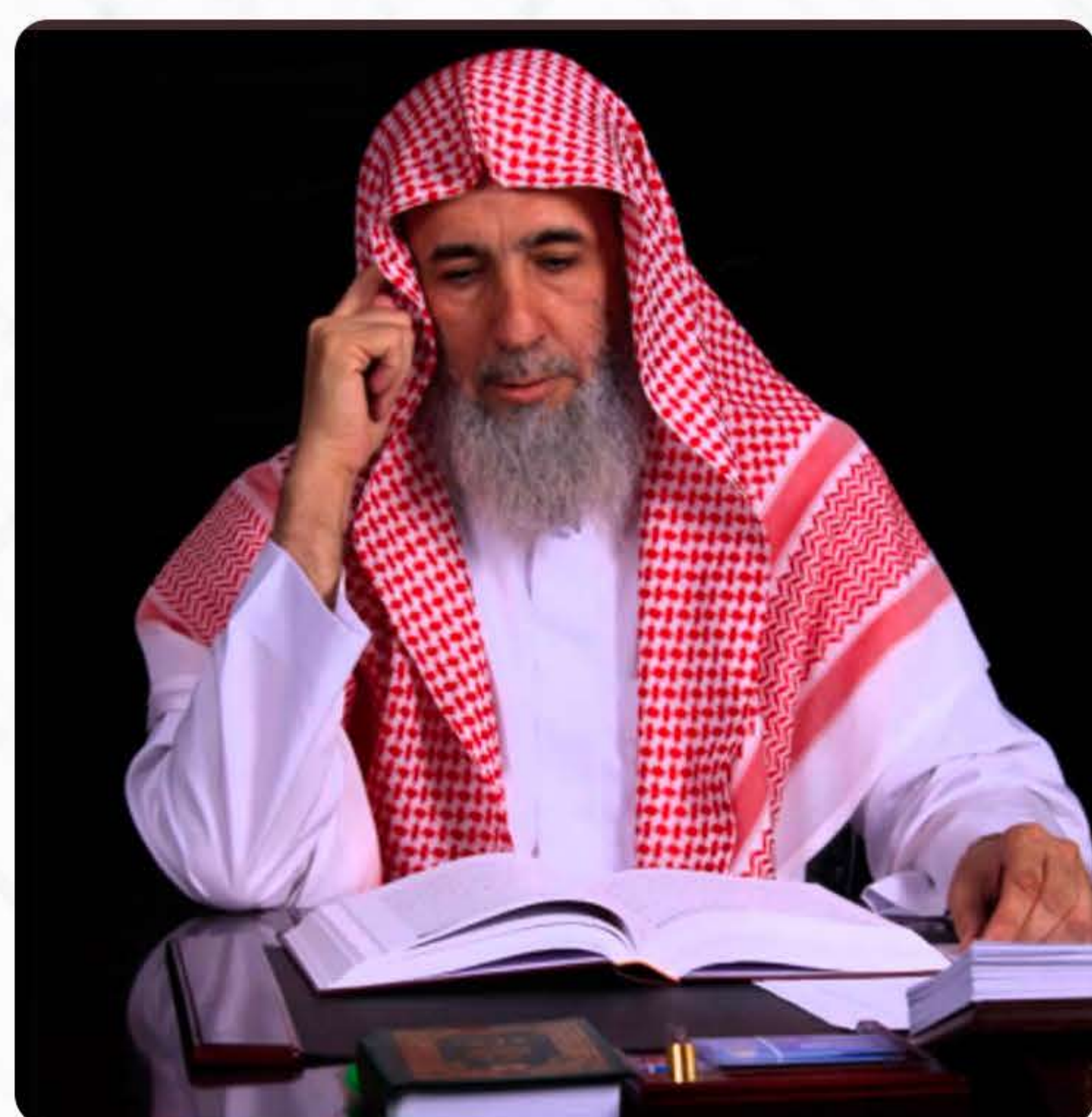
The court continued to delay Al-Sadhan’s hearings until the verdict was subsequently confirmed by the Court of Appeal on October 5, 2021 with 20 years imprisonment, followed by a travel ban for the same period on charges related to peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

The Court of Appeal increased the arbitrary sentence issued against human rights activist **Khaled Al-Omair** from seven years to nine, followed by a travel ban for the same period. Al-Omair was charged with several allegations, most notably: launching a hashtag demanding a new constitution for the country, and deliberately inciting public opinion and inciting against the kingdom's rulers. Al-Omair was arbitrarily arrested in September 2017, along with hundreds of activists, human rights defenders, and influencers, for demanding freedom and defending prisoners of conscience.



Authorities also extended the prison sentence for detained activist **Muhammad Abdullah Al-Otaibi**, adding a further three years to his prison sentence, bringing the total sentence to 17 years. The regime is detaining Al-Otaibi on charges of traveling to Qatar in 2017, and the trial in the Specialised Criminal Court lacked the most basic standards of justice - it was held in secret and he was not permitted to appoint a lawyer. Through these actions, the judiciary ignored resolutions issued by the United Nations Group on Arbitrary Detention which called for the immediate release of Al-Otaibi, who has been detained since his arrest at Hamad International Airport in Doha by Qatari security forces on May 24, 2017, and his forcible deportation to Saudi Arabia on May 28.

In its attempt to increase the suffering of prisoners of conscience and violate their rights, the Saudi judiciary increased the prison sentence of Dr **Yousef Al-Ahmad** from four years to 13 years.



Moreover, in April 2021, the Specialised Criminal Court issued an arbitrary ruling, serving a nine-year prison sentence against the detainee, **Dhaifallah Salama Al-Hwaiti**, on charges of inciting sedition and undermining state security. It is noteworthy that Dhaifallah is among the dozens of detainees from the Al-Huwaitat tribe who were arrested collectively for standing against their forced displacement by the authorities to facilitate the government's NEOM project.

The Specialised Criminal Court issued a ten-year prison sentence against Dr **Nasser Al-Omar**, following a four year suspension.

In the same context of judicial farce, the Supreme Court overturned the ruling issued by the Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh against Dr **Ibrahim Al-Nasser**, increasing his sentence from three months to three years.





The Supreme Court in Riyadh decided to increase the sentence of Dr **Omar Al-Moqbel** to four years imprisonment after the Specialised Criminal Court had issued a sentence against him for only six months.

The Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh recently issued an unfair ruling, imprisoning Ms. **Dalal Al-Khalil** for 18 years, following four years of arbitrary detention. Al-Khalil was arbitrarily arrested along with her husband, **Ibrahim Aba Al-Khail**, during a violent raid by security forces to their house in Al-Qassim in 2017. This raid was carried out in a barbaric manner, where security forces wrecked the furniture of their house and tampered with its contents.

**Dalal Al-Khalil** faced severe human rights violations in Al-Tarfiya prison in Al-Qassim, including harsh treatment, continuous insults, medical neglect, deprivation of basic rights, and psychological and physical torture.

The Saudi judiciary continues to manipulate the law to increase the repression and abuse of activists, and to delay their release by increasing their sentences or any other way to circumvent the law.

## 4. Illegitimate prisons

### Denial of rights

The year 2021 was harsh for the detainees, as the Saudi regime violated their most basic rights to communicate with their families, have visits, have sun exposure, exercise, etc., in addition to the ill-treatment and poor conditions they endure inside the prison cells due to overcrowding and lack of hygiene, which prompted some detainees to go on hunger strike.

Human rights activist Dr **Muhammad Fahd Al-Qahtani** began his second hunger strike in his cell in August 2021, due to ill-treatment and poor conditions inside the prison, preventing him from communicating with his family and depriving him of his personal books for nearly a year, as was confirmed by his wife, **Maha Al-Qahtani**, via her Twitter account. He and 30 prisoners had entered a previous hunger strike in March for the same reason, most notably **Issa Al-Nukhaifi, Fowzan Al-Harbi, Muhammed Al-Hadeef, Fahed Al-Arini and others.**

**Al-Qahtani** is a Professor of Economics, a human rights activist and one of the founding members of the Association for Civil and Political Rights in Saudi Arabia – ACPRA (also known as HASEM). He was subjected to an arbitral sentence on March 9, 2013, where he was imprisoned for ten years followed by a ten year travel ban. This followed charges framed against him in relation to his human rights activism.

Saudi authorities deliberately place psychiatric patients and addicts with prisoners of conscience and political activists. As a result, the wing of ACPRA detainees in Al-Ha'ir prison in Riyadh was exposed to a fire incident which resulted in suffocation and injuries among the detainees. This fire took place in the wing where Dr **Muhammad Fahd Al-Qahtani, Abdul-Aziz Al-Sunaidi and Issa Al-Nukhaifi** and others are being held. Sanad's sources also reported that the fire was instigated by psychiatric patients held in the same cell, whose presence is considered a danger to the lives of all inmates.

## Torture inside prisons

Saudi authorities continue to practice their abhorrent violations in prisons against prisoners of conscience, activists and political prisoners. Human Rights Watch (HRW) revealed new brutal torture in the regime's prisons against political detainees.

In a report published in mid-July, HRW published new testimonies that had emerged about the torture of prominent political detainees in Saudi prisons. HRW added that Saudi authorities did not conduct an independent and credible investigation into the allegations of torture of Saudi women's rights activists, as well as torture of other detainees in ways that included electric shocks, beatings, floggings and sexual harassment.

The Saudi right activist and academic Dr Saeed bin Naser Al-Ghamdi shared information that some detainees in Shaar prison in Abha city were subjected to brutal torture. In a tweet posted on his Twitter account, he revealed the painful and chilling news that the detainees in Shaar prison were exposed to grievous torture. He also tweeted about the abuse, torture and deliberate ill-treatment of detainees, psychologically, mentally and physically. Skyline International called on the international community and the relevant international human rights bodies to carry out field visits to prisons of the Saudi authority, and to expose the violations undertaken against the detainees therein.

*"New evidence that the Saudi authorities brutally torture women's rights defenders and other prominent detainees exposes Saudi's utter contempt for the rule of law, and the failure to credibly investigate these allegations", said Michael Page, Middle East deputy at Human Rights Watch. Page stated that leaving the perpetrators unaccountable sends a message that they can practice torture and impunity without being held accountable for the crimes they commit. He also added that the torture and other horrific treatments of Saudi detainees will remain a disgrace to Saudi leaders unless they take immediate steps to stop these crimes and hold the perpetrators to account, including those at the highest levels.*

*Amnesty International called on the Riyadh government to hold accountable those involved in violations and crimes of torture against detainees in prisons. The organisation said: "The Saudi authorities must ensure that those responsible for torture and other ill-treatment of detainees are brought to justice, and that the detainees are not subjected to any other punitive measures such as travel bans."*

It seems that the authorities are trying to turn a blind eye to those involved in the crimes of torture against female detainees in prisons, which makes the state of impunity prevalent in a country that already suffers from flagrant violations of human rights and freedoms. The Saudi regime must realise that systematic torture against prisoners of conscience in Saudi is a major crime for which those responsible should be held accountable in accordance with international law. The rights of detainees must be respected and they must be treated humanely.

## Deliberate medical negligence

Many detainees and prisoners of conscience in the prisons of the Saudi regime seriously suffer from deliberate medical neglect, threatening their lives. There are fears of detainees facing a fate similar to those who died in prison due to medical negligence, such as Dr **Abdullah Al-Hamid, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Ammari, Saleh Al-Shehhi** and others.

The Saudi authority claims to be interested in the health of prison detainees, with the Human Rights Commission, affiliated with the regime, claiming that it intends to visit prisons and detention centres to ascertain the conditions of their detainees; assess how the inmates are exercising their rights as guaranteed by law; verify the legality of their incarceration; and assess the detainees' access to health care, education, rehabilitation, training and social welfare services. The real role of the Saudi Human Rights Commission is unknown, as is its seriousness in implementing its claims, especially in light of the detainees' continued deprivation of basic rights, including basic health services.

The Saudi regime must respect the rights of detainees and fix the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in prisons, especially during the spread of the Covid pandemic, and the dangers that surround detainees who suffer from deteriorating health. They should grant detainees their basic rights and stop the abhorrent violations practiced against them immediately.

The Riyadh government has been accused of grave violation of international laws due to prisoners of conscience being deprived from medical services, thereby putting their lives at risk and using this as a tool for their slow killing.

Most prisoners of conscience in governmental prisons lack the most basic necessary health services such as healthy nourishment, observance of safety, the provision of necessary medicines, and other services that protect detainees from a deterioration of their health.

During 2021, Sanad monitored the deterioration of the health of detainee Sheikh **Muhammad bin Dalim Al-Qahtani** due to deliberate medical negligence. Al-Qahtani is 67 years old and has been detained since September 2017, serving a 14 years sentence.

The detainee **Dhaifallah Zaid Al-Sareeh Al-Otaibi** is a prime example of continued abuse by the authorities inside prisons. Al-Otaibi suffers from complete paralysis as a result of deliberate medical negligence and torture in the prisons of the Saudi regime.

The Saudi regime continues to detain Dr **Safar Al-Hawali** in his 70's, despite him suffering from kidney failure, pelvic fracture and high blood pressure, yet he does not receive necessary health care and is arbitrarily detained without trial.

Concerns are increasing for the health and lives of prisoners of conscience inside prisons of the Saudi regime, considering the risks from the spread of Covid, and the authorities' failure to take any measures to control it. They also suffer from harsh conditions, which is considered an attempt to eliminate activists and human rights advocates by killing them slowly.

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor warned in July 2021 of the outbreak of Covid inside the prison in Abha. They tweeted saying they are: "following with great concern reports of the outbreak of the Coronavirus among Palestinian and Jordanian prisoners of conscience in Abha prison in Saudi". The Euro-Med Monitor "holds the authorities fully responsible for the health and safety of the detainees", calling for immediate health care for the injured, and to take the necessary measures to control the spread of the virus in prison.

Dr **Muhammad Al-Khodari** (84 years) is detained in Shaar Prison in Abha. He suffers from a significant deterioration in his health without any provision of medical care. He suffers from cancer and now has difficulty moving and walking.

It should be noted that prisons of the Saudi regime suffer from the absence of safety measures in addition to the deliberate medical negligence that detainees face. This poses a serious risk, especially for the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

## Murder in prisons

Prison violations do not end at the deprivation of basic rights, ill-treatment or medical negligence. Saudi society and the human rights community was devastated by news of the death of Dr Musa Al-Qarni inside the prisons of the Saudi regime on the evening of Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Sanad received shocking information about the real cause of his death and the way the Dhahban prison administration dealt with his body. Sanad learnt that the death of Dr **Musa Al-Qarni** was on Saturday, October 9, though the Saudi regime kept the news of his death from his family until the morning of Tuesday, October 12. Authorities also prevented his family from receiving his body until he reached the Prophet's Mosque, where he was prayed upon and buried, without allowing any of his family to see him.





It was confirmed to Sanad that the real cause of his death was that he was severely beaten in prison on the face and head, which resulted in severe injuries that led to his death, according to medical documents that Sanad gained access to. The administration of Dhahban Prison in Jeddah had prevented the Al-Qarni family from visiting and communicating with him in the two months leading up to his death. This confirms that the regime was planning to kill him and hide the cause of his death. They bear full responsibility for his death.

The death of Dr Al-Qarni, who is nearly 70 years old, comes after his long struggle with illness, deliberate medical neglect, continuous torture, and spending 15 years in the regime's prisons. He was serving an unfair sentence of 20 years imprisonment, followed by a travel ban for another 20 years. He was accused of planning to establish a party, communicating with foreign entities, and disobeying the ruler. He was one of the detainees in the famous 'Jeddah reformist' case.

Sanad human rights organisation holds the Saudi regime fully responsible for the death of human rights activist Dr **Musa Al-Qarni's**. It calls on international human rights organisations and legal organisations and bodies to continue to pressure the Saudi regime to allow the entry of independent international committees to expose human rights violations inside the kingdom's prisons. It is also important to expose the campaign of deliberate slow killing practiced by the Saudi government against prisoners of conscience and to conduct an independent investigation into the circumstances of the death of Dr **Musa Al-Qarni**.



Sanad also calls on the international community to fulfil its human rights responsibilities by calling to stop arbitrary detention and protect the rights of detainees and prisoners because of their political and human rights activism in Saudi. Sanad asserts that the dubious international silence about the heinous violations practiced by the Saudi regime against its opponents will lead to more violations and crimes under this bloody, tyrannical regime.

Among the tragedies inside Saudi prisons, Sanad monitored the death of detainee **Khaled Omar Bahakim** inside Dhahban prison as a result of deliberate medical negligence and lack of necessary health care in August 2021. Bahakim, who was arrested in 2009, was suffering from very poor health conditions inside prison, suffering from kidney failure since entering prison. His arrest came shortly after he had underwent a kidney transplant, and he was denied necessary medications. Bahakim was subjected to terrible violations and severe psychological and physical torture, as reported by eyewitnesses from inside Dhahban prison. He was sentenced to 19 years in prison in a farcical trial that lacked the most basic legal procedures.

Sanad also monitored the death of the detainee **Zuhair Ali Al-Sharida** inside Al-Ha'ir prison in May 2021. His demise followed his contraction of Covid inside his cell, exacerbated by medical neglect and lack of attention to preventive measures inside prison cells. **Zuhair Al-Sharida** is a political activist who was arrested by the Saudi regime in September 2017 because of his writings and opinions that did not appeal to the regime.

Sanad also received information that the activist **Khaled Al-Omair** was subjected to an assassination attempt inside his prison. This attempt was carried out by a prisoner who had no connection with the activist or previous knowledge of him and was not seen again after the incident. Sanad fears that the authorities are practicing proxy killings in prisons by some prisoners who are psychologically or mentally ill or have extremist ideas.

## Minors in prisons of the regime

All rights, including children's rights, are violated in Saudi Arabia. The four-year-old girl, **Kayan Al-Juhani**, is the youngest victim in the prisons of the Saudi regime, as she was imprisoned before she was even born. She celebrated her fourth birthday in August 2021 inside prison. Her mother, **Fatima Al-Balushi**, a human rights activist was arrested while she was five months pregnant and gave birth to her daughter Kayan in prison. Kayan is growing up knowing nothing of this world but the walls of her cell, robbed of the most basic childhood rights by Saudi oppression.

**Murtaja Qureiris** was arrested in 2014 at the age of 14 on charges of participating in the 2013 demonstrations. Qureiris is described by activists and human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia as the youngest political detainee in the Saudi regime's prisons. In February 2021, the Criminal Court issued a final ruling against him of eight years imprisonment followed by a travel ban for a similar period. He was subjected to major violations, including arbitrary arrest and delay in his trial. His arrest in itself is a violation and a grave crime against childhood.



Dozens of children are detained in Saudi prisons, as reported by several international human rights organisations. The regime must be aware of the dangers of these arbitrary measures and they must resolve minor's cases urgently by releasing them unconditionally, and respect children's rights and international conventions in this regard.

## 5. Executions without crimes

Saudi authorities continue to implement death sentences and extrajudicial killings, and the judiciary issues sentences based on confessions extracted by force under torture and coercion during interrogation sessions, or according to interpretations of some provisions of the law, in line with the aspirations or desires of decision-makers in the regime.

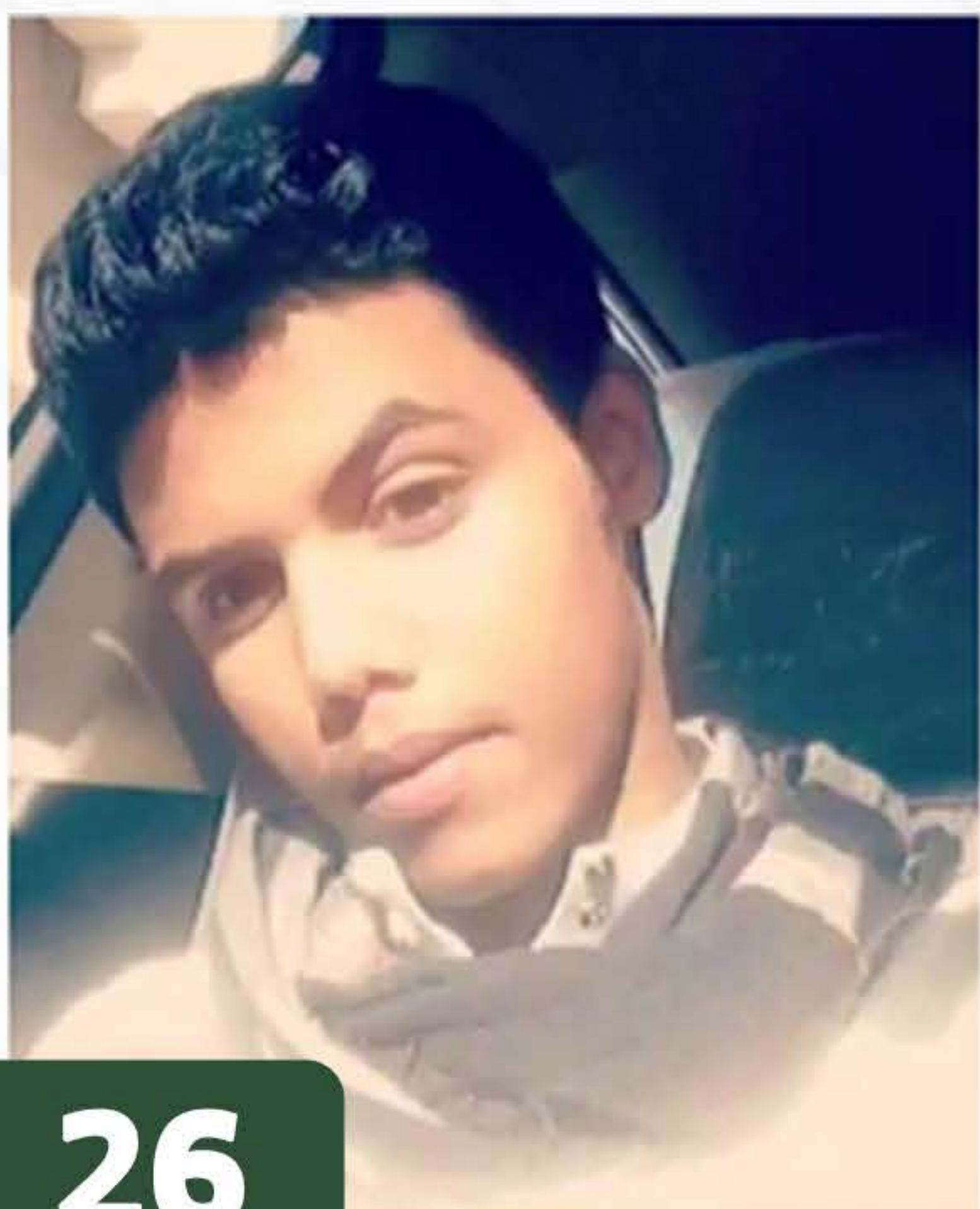
During 2021, the Saudi regime executed at least 65 people, compared to 31 executions in 2020, with 18 detainees facing imminent death sentences, including at least five minors. Despite government promises to reduce the level of executions and the claim that the rates have decreased over the past year, authorities continue to carry out death sentences against detainees.

At the beginning of this year, Amnesty International confirmed that there are four countries, including Saudi Arabia, which topped the Middle East countries in the number of executions during the past year, indicating that Riyadh and other countries have a “cruel and frightening determination” to kill people, despite the health challenges facing humanity during the pandemic.

On August 3, 2021, Saudi authorities enacted the death sentence against the detainee **Ahmed Al-Janabi**, amid fears that the death penalty would be inflicted upon others in the period that ensued. The ruling issued by the Saudi judiciary against Al-Janabi was based on charges that did not amount to the death penalty. According to the official statement issued by the Ministry of Interior regarding the ruling, Al-Janabi did not face charges which includes murder or bloodshed, but rather charges related to protesting and expressing opinion.

On June 15, 2021, Saudi authorities executed the young **Mustafa Hashem Al-Darwish** on charges he committed when he was a minor. He was accused of participating in a demonstration when he was just 17 years old.

The detained young man, **Mustafa Al-Khayyat**, awaits his death sentence amidst an absence of information about his condition inside prison. He was arrested for the same charges that were brought against the Darwish family when he was 16 years old.



A similar fate seems to await the young **Abdullah Al-Hwaiti**, who was accused of committing a crime when he was 14, and the Specialised Criminal Court issued a death sentence accusing him of murder and armed robbery. Several human rights sources transmitted a handwritten letter confirming that he was tortured during interrogation.

## 6. Restrictions on freedom of movement

Although the Saudi regime released some prisoners of conscience under pressure from international human rights organisations or as an attempt to improve their image, these releases remain incomplete, and the former detainees' freedom remains fragmented. Besides banning the released detainees from exercising their right to speak and express themselves, they are restricted in movement and banned from traveling. Some are even tagged to monitor their movements.

It is known that those who were released in previous years as a result of international pressure, such as US citizen **Walid Fitaihi**, are banned from traveling until this moment.

As a result of international pressure, Saudi authorities released activist **Loujain Al-Hathloul** in February 202. Yet she is not allowed to travel, according to the testimony of her brothers residing abroad.

The Saudi regime released journalist **Yazid Al-Fifi, Dr Samir Haloni and Dr Saad Matar Al-Otaibi** in October 2021, all of whom are banned from traveling as well as being prevented from speaking or writing.

The novelist **Ali Al-Shadawi**, economist **Abdul Aziz Al-Dakhil** and journalist **Aqel Al-Bahili** are still banned from travel despite their release since July 2021 without any charges being brought against them.

Sanad has singled out the issue of the travel ban in a special report that can be referred to for more details about this violation and how the Saudi government uses it against human rights activists.



## 7. Expropriation and forced displacement

The obsession with expropriation and forced displacement has become a distinctive feature of the Saudi regime in recent years. Hardly a month passes without news of demolitions and displacement in a Saudi city. Although forced expropriation of property without respect for the right of personal property has been a characteristic of Saudi governments throughout the years, the matter was usually undertaken in return for an adequate and satisfactory compensation. However, the current Saudi regime adds to the issue of forced displacement and expulsion of residents the lack of fair compensation for the owners of these lands and real estates.

The year 2021 started with the continued displacement of the people of Al-Huwaitat tribe in northwest Saudi which started back in 2020, and the killing of **AbdulRahim Al-Huwaiti** when he exercised his right of refusing to leave his home. Authorities carried out a campaign against members of Al-Huwaitat tribe, detaining them for refusing their displacement, which authorities claim was not forced. It further claimed that it would not force anyone to leave their home, while its practices on the ground prove otherwise. This is evident from the videos and photographs that showed the excessive use of force against the residents of the village of Khraibeh, and the accompanying arrests, and killing of Al-Huwaiti. You can refer to several reports published by Sanad on the issue of the displacement of Al-Huwaitat.



The displacement of the people of Al-Huwaitat was accompanied by mass arrests of the tribe's members. Sources confirm that these detainees were arrested for defending the child Salem bin Rashid Al-Taqeeqi, who was kidnapped in a civilian car. After members of his family tried to catch up with the kidnappers and free the child from their grip, the kidnappers turned out to be from the security services. It was claimed that the reason the child was kidnapped was to arrest him after he wrote the phrase: "We will not leave" on the walls. This demonstrates the government's barbaric and provocative method in dealing with the country's sensitive human rights file, and its failure to show any intention of reformation.

In mid-2021, some villages were demolished in the Asir region, in the south of Saudi. Several videos appeared of the people in the region documenting forced displacements and home demolitions, all for the sake of fake projects, palaces and uncalculated adventures carried out by an amateur administration.

The displacement and expropriation of property has affected many cities and areas including high-end neighbourhoods. In July 2021, the people of high-end neighbourhoods in the capital were appalled by orders to remove areas in the neighbourhoods of Al-Khuzami, Al-Nakhil and Arqah in northwest Riyadh. The aim was to build "The largest park in the world". Displacement and demolition operations in Saudi are always characterised by ambiguity, lack of respect for human dignity and rights, and the absence of a timeline that determines when the procedures will begin, how to determine compensation, and how to ensure decent housing for the displaced before starting the removal operations. Sanad report on Al-Khuzami district in Riyadh.



But the major catastrophe in the series of human rights violations, forced displacement and property demolition occurred in Jeddah at the end of 2021 and continues until today. The lives of residents of some neighbourhoods in southern Jeddah were turned upside down due to the continued illegal campaign of displacement and eviction. Some residents in these areas wander in Jeddah, not knowing where to go or what to do, after being expelled, having water and electricity cut from their homes to force them to evacuate, in a flagrant defiance of the human rights covenants that Saudi Arabia claims to abide by.



Foreign estimates indicate that at least one million people have had their properties expropriated and their lives turned upside down in Saudi. Some publications indicate that at least ten areas have been completely demolished, and that the plan is targeting about 60 more areas, most of which are located in the southern part of the country.

What the regime is doing against citizens in the city of Jeddah and other regions such as Riyadh, Tabuk and Asir are a flagrant violation of the most important human rights, which is housing. Instead of providing housing for citizens, the government has demolished homes and displaced their residents under flimsy pretexts related to the expansion of projects, development, or the removal of old neighbourhoods.

## 8. Stateless citizens (Bidoon)

The right to acquire the nationality of the country in which one grew up is a human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that 'Everyone has the right to a nationality' and that 'No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality'. To learn more about the Bidoon issue in Saudi, you can refer to our special report on this issue by Sanad. (link!)

In 2021, the Bidoon issue did not witness an improvement despite demands by human rights organisations for Saudi to fix this accumulative file and to stop the problem from growing. In November 2021, Saudi announced that it would grant citizenship, opening the door for naturalisation to a number of academically qualified persons who meet the conditions for obtaining Saudi citizenship. Indeed, it was granted to a number of recognised personalities. However, it is disappointing that granting citizenship in Saudi is based on nomination in accordance with "public interest", and there will be no opening for applications in this regard.

Although this naturalisation process could have been a step in the right direction to improve Saudi's human rights record, the suffering of more than a quarter of a million Bidoon in Saudi was not considered. The Bidoon in Saudi are deprived of the most basic civil rights such as freedom of movement, education, health and work. Upon looking closely at their situation, they suffer discrimination and exclusion in various fields - in education, work, transportation, treatment, and even in the case of marriage and death! This is because they do not have national identity cards or identification papers. Children of the 'stateless' category, or as they are called the Bidoon, especially face difficulties in obtaining the most basic rights and requirements of life, such as school education or university studies, not to mention finding decent job opportunities. The Bidoon also suffer from difficulties in documenting marriages or registering births.

Among the privileges that are denied by Saudi Arabia to the Bidoon is medical care, as governmental and even private hospitals and health centres refuse to treat them because they do not carry identification papers. As a result of this, they face several risks, especially pregnant women, as their births are sometimes not registered officially, which prevents them from accessing basic public services such as healthcare, and they may often be prevented from giving birth in public hospitals, which poses a threat to the life of the mother and child. Some men may have to bring their wives to hospitals under other women's names who have identification papers to deliver their babies, and then upon leaving the hospital they tear up the birth notification.





## 9. Recommendations

### The report recommends the following:

1. We call on the international community and human rights and political institutions to pressure the Saudi government to release all political detainees and human rights activists, to stop farcical trials, and to drop prison sentences and travel bans against them.
2. The international community must carry out its duties and undertake its commitment against the human rights violations in Saudi Arabia and maintain pressure to stop the brutal methods used by the Saudi regime towards activists and thinkers, and to ensure that Saudi people exercise their civil and political rights without restriction or threat.
3. International action must be taken to conduct a transparent and comprehensive investigation into the regime's crimes inside detention centres, especially torture and murder in prisons, and to hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes and face punishment, regardless of who they are, and to stop the comprehensive targeting campaigns and the deliberate slow killings practiced by the Saudi government against prisoners of conscience.
4. Ending all forms of political, military and technical support for the Saudi regime, which encourages it to continue human rights violations. Implementing regulations to prevent the sale of spyware to the Saudi government must be enacted.
5. Sanad calls on the international community and human rights organisations to assume their responsibility towards the deliberate forced displacement in all regions of Saudi, and to call for an end to the horrific and serious human rights violations, and to pressure the Saudi government to respect human rights and abide by international commitments in this regard.
6. The international justice institutions must expose the practices of the Saudi judiciary, because it is the mantle that the system is using as a cover in the face of international human rights organisations. The Saudi government is using the Specialised Criminal Court to create a false aura of legitimacy around its misuse of the anti-terror law to silence its critics.
7. The international community must exert additional pressure to remedy the problems arising from its constant refusal to grant many Bidoon citizens a nationality and to stop violating their rights. The Saudi Ministry of Interior must also start a plan to reform their situation permanently, and not resolve to temporary solutions in the face of this serious problem.
8. The Saudi regime must immediately stop the violations and heinous crimes against human rights, dignity and freedom, and stop all forms of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearance and torture in prisons and detention centres.

9. We call on the Saudi government to immediately stop the property demolitions and forced displacements they are currently undertaking in the Jeddah governorate, and to immediately compensate those affected and ensure the protection of their rights.

10. The Saudi authorities must urgently reform the judicial, criminal and penal system in line with international standards.

11. The regime must be aware of the risks of its arbitrary violations against detained children, resolve their cases promptly, release them unconditionally, and respect children's rights and international covenants.





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