

Report on the human rights situation
in Saudi Arabia



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منظمة سند الحقوقية
Sanad Right Organisation





Introduction

The Saudi regime continues to detain – in very bad conditions – a number of people for defending rights and demanding freedoms, while the judicial system in Saudi Arabia still lacks the most basic international standards for justice. Violations by the security services also continue to occur in prisons and places of detention.

SANAD monitors the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia on a monthly basis. In this report, we review a summary of the most important events in April 2022



Arrests

- SANAD human rights organisation followed up and monitored the campaign of arrests of a number of judges in Saudi Arabia on 10th April 2022, which was documented by a number of interested organisations and news agencies.

The organisation “Democracy for the Arab World Now” (DAWN) stated on its website that according to eyewitnesses they had spoken with, officials of the State security services arrested at least nine judges, and added that Saudi security officials went to the workplaces of these judges to make these arrests public.

The judges whose arrests were documented are:

- Abdulaziz bin Madawi Aal Jaber, Assistant President of the Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh
 - Abdullah Khaled Aal Luhaidan, member of the Specialised Criminal Court
 - Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Omari, member of the Supreme Court.
 - Nasser bin Saud Al-Harbi, Judge at the Specialised Criminal Court
 - Muhammad bin Misfer Al-Ghamdi, member of the Supreme Court and President of the Court of Appeal in Al-Baha region.
 - Khaled Owaid Al-Qahtani, member of the Supreme Court.
 - Fahd Abdullah Al-Saghir, member of the Court of Appeal.
 - Talal Abdullah Al-Humaidan, member of the Court of Appeal
 - Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Omari, member of the Court of Appeal
- DAWN confirmed that the reason for their arrests were accusations of high treason, which is a crime punishable by death in Saudi Arabia. Other news websites concerned with detainees in Saudi Arabia stated that the judges’ arrest came after they prepared judicial studies on important and sensitive topics that were assigned to them by higher authorities, except that these sites did not mention any further details.



Prison violations

- SANAD received news confirming the death of the detainee Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Kameli - 29 years old - inside prison. His family received a sudden call from the prison administration informing them of his death and asking them to receive the body.

Signs of torture were seen on his body, which means that he died due to brutal torture inside the prison

SANAD hold the Saudi regime fully responsible for determining the circumstances and any cover-ups surrounding Al-Kameli's death, and calls on the regime to stop all kinds of violations and abuses that are being practiced against detainees.

- 15th April marks the eighth anniversary of the arrest of lawyer and human rights activist Waleed Abu Al-Khair, where he is serving a 15-year prison sentence and a 15-year travel ban.

Abu Al-Khair is a prominent human rights activist and member of the ACPRA and the head of the Saudi Observatory for Human Rights.

- 24th April also marks the second anniversary of the death of the most prominent political and human rights activist in Saudi Arabia and the icon of the human rights struggle, Dr Abdullah Al-Hamid, may God have mercy on him.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamid died on 24th April 2020 in the prisons of the Saudi regime as a result of deliberate medical negligence. The Saudi authorities practiced a slow death method against him despite their knowledge of the deterioration of his health in his last years.

- SANAD came to learn from multiple sources who spoke to us that Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Zahrani has been lying in hospital in the intensive care unit, and that he has been in a coma since late last March.

SANAD had published the news of his release in early March, when it was confirmed to us that the reason for his release was cancer. This confirms that the Saudi authorities - after they arbitrarily arrested him and medically neglected him inside prison - want to get rid of the consequences of that.

And SANAD, whilst wishing a speedy recovery and lasting safety for Al-Zahrani, calls on the Saudi regime to respect the rights of all detainees and to provide them with the necessary medical care, especially those with serious and chronic diseases. And not to deliberately neglect them so that they face the risk of death inside the prisons

المحكمة العامة
بالرياض

Judiciary and rulings

- SANAD can confirm - according to close sources who contacted us - that the Court of Appeal increased the sentence against Dr Saud Al-Fanisan from two years to seven years, with a stay of execution for three and a half years. The ruling was submitted to the Supreme Court for approval.

The Specialised Criminal Court had sentenced Dr Al-Fanisan in October 2021 to two years in prison on charges of inciting public opinion.

Dr. Al-Fanisan – who is 85 years old - is a professor of Sharia at Imam Muhammad bin Saud University and was arbitrarily arrested in March 2020 without legal reasons or a court ruling of arrest. The reason for his arrest was a tweet on his Twitter account about the Coronavirus epidemic, and that it was a plague brought about because of the sins of the people.

Jamal Khashoggi



where is

JUSTICE?

Claims

- A recent US State Department report on human rights in Saudi Arabia for the year 2021 mentioned documented evidence that the Saudi government committed several violations and abuses in the human rights file.

The report stated that the violations included the enforced disappearance of a number of activists and human rights defenders after they were subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention by the Saudi security services.

The report also mentioned that detainees were subjected to torture and inhumane treatment inside the prisons, as well as harsh and poor prison conditions, which are considered life-threatening.

We at SANAD had documented a number of these violations in our report on the Saudi human rights situation for the year 2021, stressing the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia significantly

 <https://bit.ly/37TMLrh>

- Because of the executions carried out in March by the Saudi government against 81 people, human rights activists organised a protest in front of the Saudi embassy in the Netherlands.

In their stand, the activists appealed to international organisations and relevant international bodies to intervene to stop the violation against citizens. They also called on people of conscience around the world to condemn the crime of mass executions in Saudi Arabia.

The recent executions announced by the Saudi Ministry of Interior in mid-March of the execution of 81 detainees is one of the largest executions carried out by the Saudi government at once and in one day.

- Amnesty International has warned the Turkish authorities not to refer the case of those accused of killing journalist Jamal Khashoggi to Riyadh, in light of the impunity that criminals enjoy in Saudi Arabia. Amnesty International has accused the criminal justice system in Saudi Arabia of lacking independence, transparency and fairness.

The organisation said that the Saudi judiciary has wronged human rights activists, as the Specialised Criminal Court issued severe prison sentences to people for their human rights activities and for expressing their dissenting opinions. It noted that in the Kingdom, female human rights defenders were subject to judicial decisions to ban travel after their release from prison.

It is worth noting that on 7th April, the Turkish Criminal Court ordered the trial of 26 people accused of killing journalist Jamal Khashoggi in his country's consulate to be stopped, and that the case is to be transferred to the Saudi judiciary at the request of the Turkish Public Prosecutor. SANAD has issued a statement condemning this decision



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