



Sanad's 2022 human rights report

**A year of doubling
sentences**

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Foreword from the Chairman Dr: Saaed Al-Gamadi

In a turbulent world conflicted by political problems, economic crises, health disasters, hotbeds of conflict and wars, the issue of human rights remains one of the most important pressing issues that must be attended to, and supported by all governments, institutions, media outlets, and activists, in order to put a stop to violations everywhere.

In a country like Saudi Arabia, where human rights are violated in all forms, and repression and terrorism are practiced and freedoms are confiscated on every level, there is an urgent need to shed light on the violations and abuses committed by the regime against its citizens and to work together to achieve dignity for the oppressed in their homelands and to say in a unified voice to this oppressive regime: “It’s time for you to stop your crimes and your denial of people’s freedoms and rights”.

Sanad Human Rights Organisation was established as an urgent response to the deteriorating human rights situation in Saudi Arabia and to fill the void that exists in the lack of impartial and effective human rights

institutions domestically. It also aimed to work with its counterparts internationally to shed light on the Saudi human rights situation, to call for freedoms, rights, and reform inside the Kingdom, as well as uncover the violations committed by the regime against detainees and prisoners, including activists, intellectuals, influencers, and human rights activists.

The human rights situation in Saudi Arabia is catastrophic in the truest sense of the word. Concerted efforts by all to press for reform is a national and humanitarian duty, and choosing to stay silent regarding the regime’s violations and turning a blind eye to its transgressions only means more violations, repression, tyranny and abuses.

Through our annual report, we will shed light on the violations that have been committed by the regime, its brutal and repressive methods, and introduce a number of its victims about whom much is not known. We do this to report what can be revealed about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia for the year 2022.



Summary report of the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia in 2022

At the end of 2021, some of the political isolation that Saudi Arabia was experiencing, following the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, began to diminish. The murder of Khashoggi had led to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman being isolated internationally, not least with the release of human rights reports, together with media and intelligence reports, which confirmed the Prince's role in Khashoggi's assassination. Since then, the international community chose to prioritise national interests over human rights and justice.

This was striking in the first quarter of 2022. First there was the visit of the then British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, on 12 March 2022. On the day of the visit, Saudi Arabia carried out the largest mass execution in the country's history. 81 citizens were executed on charges relating to freedom of opinion and expression. This was despite the Crown Prince asserting that the executions were a punishment for the killing of an individual. The Specialised Criminal Court also issued ten other death sentences against several prisoners of conscience.

Boris Johnson's visit was followed by the visit

of US President, Joe Biden, and then by the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz.

All of these visits, with their attempts to end the political isolation of the Saudi Crown Prince by the West, were a cheap trade between political and economic interests and justice, freedom and human rights. These diplomatic changes in international relations between Saudi Arabia and several countries gave Prince Mohammed bin Salman a green light to commit more violations and serious transgressions.

Sanad Human Rights Organisation has monitored the Saudi authorities' continued detention of a number of citizens without clear charges or on charges related to freedom of expression. Sanad has also monitored the security authorities' enactment of arrest campaigns against elite academics and activists from the country. During 2022, 48 such individuals were arrested, most notably Dr Abd al-Rahman bin Yusuf al-Rahma, the reciter Abd al-Majid al-Arkani, Imran al-Arkani, and Professor Muhammad bin Mohsen Basra. Recently, the names of 10 other activists previously detained were also discovered, including Dr Abdullah Marouf, Musa Omar Ali Ghazi, and Abdullah bin Saeed Thuwaini.



One of the violations detainees were subjected to was transfer to a psychiatric ward, putting their lives at risk. Mohammed al-Qahtani was physically assaulted by a prisoner whilst he slept following his transfer to such a ward.

Quite notably last year, a number of detainees were subjected to retrials following the end of their sentences or had their sentences increased without legal justification. Sanad documented the doubling of sentences for several detainees, including Sheikh Khaled al-Rashed, Osama Filali, Dr Mohammed al-Hudhaif, Dr Saud al-Fennisan, Noura al-Qahtani, Abd al-Majid al-Arkani, as well as others.

In continuation of the campaign of persecution of the Al-Hwaitat tribe, Sanad monitored the issuance of new long-term sentences by the Specialised Criminal Court against the youth of Al-Hwaitat. A 27-year prison sentence was issued against Abdel Nasser Ahmed al-Hwaiti; his son, Ahmed Abdel Nasser al-Hwaiti, received a 20-year sentence; a 35-year prison sentence was passed against Mahmoud Ahmed al-Hwaiti; a 50-year prison sentence was passed against Abdullah al-Hwait and also against Abdullah Dakhil al-Hwaiti. Sanad also monitored the criminal court's issuance of death sentences for the minors, Abdullah al-Hwaiti, Atallah al-Hwaiti, Ibrahim al-Hwaiti and Shadi al-Hwaiti, on charges related to protesting their forcible removal from their homes.

Despite the fact that the Saudi authorities released some detainees following the end of their sentence, such as Fahd al-Sunaidi,

Abdul-Rahman al-Arifi, and others, their release was accompanied by travel bans for the same period as their incarceration. Sources confirmed to Sanad that the number of those banned from travel exceeded 70,000 citizens, both male and female, including the families of detainees, activists, and dissidents, as well as families from the Al Saud family itself and those close to it.

Occasionally, inmates' release was related to their health conditions, as happened with Dr Abdulaziz al-Zahrani. Sanad received confirmation that the reason for his release was that he was suffering with cancer. His health had deteriorated significantly as a result of medical negligence and neglect in prison.

The use of the death penalty in 2022 confirms that it is a tool used by the government for political blackmail and repression against their political opponents. Sanad believes that the executions carried out during the year lack transparency and integrity of procedures. They were a means by which the regime terrorised people and prevented from claiming their basic rights. This was confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. They stated that their monitoring systems indicate that "some of those executed were sentenced to death following trials that did not meet fair trial and due process guarantees, and for crimes that did not appear to meet the most serious crimes threshold, as required under international law". The UN Commissioner for Human Rights condemned this crime.

Sanad monitored the Saudi regime's continued demolition and removal operations in Jeddah, which the regime insisted is paving the way for development projects. However, these operations have caused the forced displacement of thousands of citizens from the neighbourhoods of Jeddah, which is estimated by data from human rights organisations to have affected more than 72,000 people. Hundreds of families have already become homeless. The authorities did not provide them with alternative homes before their eviction, nor did they compensate them enough to buy or rent alternative homes. In addition, the suffering of more than a quarter of a million Bedoons (stateless citizens) in Saudi Arabia continues, with the deprivation of their most basic civil rights. They continue to endure marginalisation, government brutality, racism, and segregation, all of which ensures their continued suffering.

Sanad monitored the violations that faced the orphans of Khamis Mushait, where a group of security forces violently assaulted the girls inside an orphanage. Despite the horrific violation, authorities did not express any constructive response to the incident except for a statement to open an investigation, the results of which are not known.

Sanad monitored the regime's continued violation of press freedoms through the arrest of dozens of journalists, such as Malek al-Ahmad, Khaled al-Alkami, Zuhair Kutbi, Zana al-Shehri, Abdullah al-Maliki and others.

Sanad also documented how the Saudi authorities prevent certain people from performing Hajj (pilgrimage) because of their views on some issues or because of the opinions that they have expressed. In

addition, the authorities have lured some pilgrims to the country by granting them visas for Hajj and Umrah, only to arrest them upon their arrival and deport them to countries where their lives are in danger. Among them is the Uyghur religious scholar Hamdallah Abd al-Wali and his friend Normit Rozi. Within this context, Sanad called upon human rights organisations to participate in the «Hajj is not safe» campaign.

These events confirm that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is intent on crushing any form of dissent in the most brutal of fashion, all with the apparent unwillingness or inability of the international community to expose the human rights violations carried out in his name.



First: Arrests are continuing and enforced disappearances are still taking place

The year 2022 witnessed a significant deterioration in the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi regime continued its system of arbitrary arrests, and its policy of enforced disappearance that has become commonplace during the reign of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Arrests have intensified, targeting a new category this year - judges. The regime arrested several judges in a precedent that warns of great danger targeting the judicial institution, an entity which is supposed to be independent and not subject to any pressure from the ruling authority. However, the latter cannot be applied in Saudi Arabia, where the judicial system is considered a tool in the hands of the authority that violates human rights.

In the context of arrests, a report of the US State Department which discussed the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia in 2021 confirmed the existence of documented evidence proving that the Saudi government committed several human rights violations

and abuses. The report stated that violations included the enforced disappearance of a number of activists and human rights defenders following their subjection to arbitrary arrest and detention by the Saudi security services. The report also mentioned that detainees were subjected to torture and inhumane treatment within detention facilities, in addition to harsh prison conditions that endangers the prisoner's lives.

The Saudi regime persists daily in its violations, without facing any deterrence from the international community. Indeed, it is the continued silence of the international community regarding these violations that encourages the regime to carry out further violations and confiscate freedoms. We therefore call on all human rights organisations and international institutions to play their role in confronting this arrogance and to stop the Saudi authorities from committing further crimes.

The following is a summary of the most prominent cases of arbitrary detention that Sanad monitored during 2022, knowing full well that it is difficult to count all the arrests and cases of enforced disappearance carried out by the regime due to the great

restrictions imposed on independent media and human rights organisations, and the lack of transparency in disclosing the names of detainees. The most prominent arrests during the year can be summarised as follows:

Arrests in January, February and March

Saudi authorities began 2022 with the arrest of Dr AbdulRahman bin Yusuf Al-Rahma on 10th January following the circulation of an old videoclip featuring his praise for the detainee Sheikh Suleiman Al-Alwan. Dr Al-Rahma is a prominent Islamic personality. He studied at the hands of senior scholars and worked as a Sharia advisor at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. He is heavily involved in charitable work in Africa.

Sanad Human Rights Organisation monitored the arrest of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ayed bin Deghaither Al-Shaibani Al-Otaibi, owner of the famous Latamat Monqiyah for camels, by Saudi security forces in early January. Sanad found out from its sources that the reason for his arrest was a dispute between Sheikh Abdullah and the head of the Camel Club, Fahd bin Hathlin, who is close to the Saudi Crown Prince, Muhammad bin Salman. The dispute followed Sheikh Abdullah announcing his intent to participate in the Qatar Camel Festival.

Sheikh Abdullah had announced his retirement from camel competitions in Saudi Arabia after his loss in the King Abdulaziz VI Camel Festival, where a number of interested circles reported that the Camel Club, headed

by Fahd bin Hathleen, manipulated the results of the competition, which resulted in Sheikh Abdullah losing the competition. Shortly after the end of the Camel Festival, Sheikh Abdullah announced his participation in the Qatar Camel Festival, and Sanad documented that his arrest came following this announcement. A statement was issued on his Twitter account a few days later announcing his withdrawal from participating in the Qatar Camel Festival due to his lack of readiness.

The Saudi regime arrested 14 relatives and friends of Sheikh Abdullah bin Deghaither from the Otaiba tribe, without legal justification or filing clear charges. It is worth noting that the regime released Sheikh Abdullah 10 months after his arrest, without any charges.

The academic AbdulMajeed Al-Arkani was also subjected to arbitrary arrest on February 7 by the state security forces, without clear charges or legal justification, as part of the arbitrary arrests campaign pursued by the authorities. Sanad learned that the reason for the arrest of Al-Arkani was his contact with Turkish academics where he took pictures alongside them at a conference held by the Muslim World League in Saudi Arabia.



Arrests in January, February and March



It was also revealed that Dr Abdullah Marouf was arbitrarily arrested from his home by state security agents in late 2020 without knowing the reason for his arrest or the charges made against him. Abdullah Marouf is an academic and activist. He is the official representative of the Rohingya people in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and head of the Global Rohingya Centre in Makkah.

Human rights sources also revealed that Saudi authorities had arrested the young Musa Omar Ali Ghazi in November 2018 in front of the Mosque in Madinah, following his expression of opinion on the Yemen war.

It was also revealed that in February 2021, Saudi authorities arrested the young Abdullah bin Saeed Thuwaini, son of the well-known poet Saeed Thuwaini Al-Muhammadi Al-Harbi, because of his activity on social media platforms. This also came as part of the series of arbitrary arrests pursued by the authorities against citizens of the country. Sources indicated that Saudi security forces arrested Bin Thuwaini from his home in Madinah for sharing content of detained sheikhs on his Twitter account.

Sanad monitored the case of the young Omar Shayboubu in March 2022 when he was subjected to arbitrary arrest by state security agents in Makkah after the ‘electronic flies’ launched a fierce campaign against him because of rap songs he performed. He describes these songs as “intellectual revolutionary songs.” It is reported that Omar Shayboubu is 20 years old and is still subjected to enforced disappearance and denied contact with his family or a lawyer. His arrest came despite the Saudi government’s attempts to whitewash its reputation by sponsoring and promoting art and entertainment. However, it does not tolerate any artistic contributions aimed at educating people about their rights, or artists who do not follow the government’s direction in providing shallow entertainment and art to serve oppression and tyranny.

Human rights sources also revealed that Sheikh AbdulJalil Al-Makrani was arrested at the beginning of March 2022 before his release at the end of the month without charge or providing any reason for his detention, which lasted 25 days.

Arrests in April (the season of arresting judges)

Sanad Human Rights Organisation monitored and documented the campaign of arrests that targeted a number of judges in Saudi Arabia on April 10, 2022, as state security officials arrested at least nine judges. Saudi security officials went to the workplaces of these judges to make these arrests public. Human rights sources confirmed that the reason behind their arrest was an accusation of high treason - a crime punishable by death in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, news websites focusing on detainees in Saudi Arabia stated that the judges' arrest came after they prepared judicial studies on important sensitive topics that were assigned to them from higher authorities, without providing any other details.

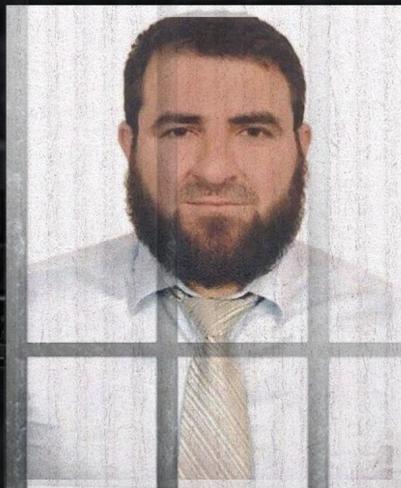
The judges whose arrest was documented are:

1. Abdulaziz bin Madawi Al-Jaber, Assistant President of the Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh.
2. Abdullah Khaled Al-Luhaidan, member of the Specialised Criminal Court.
3. Muhammad bin Abdullah Al-Omari, member of the Supreme Court.
4. Nasser bin Saud Al-Harbi, judge at the Specialised Criminal Court.
5. Muhammad bin Misfer Al-Ghamdi, member of the Supreme Court and President of the Court of Appeal in Al-Baha region.
6. Khaled Awadh Al-Qahtani, member of the Supreme Court.
7. Fahd Abdullah Al-Saghir, member of the

Court of Appeal.

8. Talal Abdullah Al-Humaidan, member of the Court of Appeal.
9. Muhammad bin Abdullah Al-Omari, member of the Court of Appeal.
10. Jundub Al-Mufreh, member of the Specialised Criminal Court.

It was also revealed that Saudi authorities had arrested a Syrian pharmacist at the Suleiman Al-Habib Centre - Ammar Tarboush - in 2018, because of his criticism of the Kingdom's policies. Tarboush was subjected to many violations, such as being prevented from communicating with his family, or appointing a lawyer to defend his case. It is worth noting that Ammar Al-Tarboush's wife was forced to leave the Kingdom with her children after the end of their residency period, and they had no breadwinner after the detention of Ammar.



Arrests in April (the season of arresting judges)

Arrests in May, June and July

Sanad monitored the arrest of businessman and journalist Mansour Al-Raqiba by the Saudi authorities, accompanied by his friend Fares Al-Tuwaijri. Sanad obtained information reporting that Mansour's arrest at the end of May 2022 was horrific. On that fateful day, thirty security personnel raided his house and Mansour had his devices confiscated before being taken to a car. His family were then gathered in a room where they were all searched, including the women and children, after which security forces went to Mansour's private rest house which they searched in an imbecilic manner, scattering all its contents. It is worth noting that this is not the first time that Mansour was arrested - he was arrested previously because of videoclips he posted on Snapchat.

Sanad also monitored the arrest of Dr AbdulRahman Alyoubi in mid-July 2022 by members of the State Security. Sanad was the first to document his arrest and enforced disappearance, as well as the reasons for his arrest. According to documented information obtained by Sanad, it came due to a personal dispute between Alyoubi and an employee at the university. A malicious report was made against him and he was arrested as a result. Alyoubi's sons asked an official, whom Alyoubi had close relationship with (Sanad is refraining from mentioning his name), to intercede with King Salman to expedite his release, especially since he was acquitted. Mohammed bin Salman did

not like this behaviour, and prevented them from reaching their father and proceeded to fabricate accusations against him of embezzling half a billion Saudi riyals and publishing it in the media to be circulated and distort his reputation.

Ibn Salman's regime carried out a fierce smear campaign with malicious accusations, starting with the fabricated corruption case Dr Alyoubi was accused of, despite evidence confirming his innocence. The administration of King Abdulaziz University - of which Alyoubi was president before his arrest, responded to the defamation campaign, with evidence presented through official statements responding to the accusations brought forth, refuting the allegations of employment corruption against the university and its presidency. Although Alyoubi was acquitted of all charges made against him, the regime insisted on misleading the facts, and persisted with the campaign against Dr Alyoubi and the extensive destruction of his reputation to justify his arrest.

For more information about the arrest of Dr AbdulRahman Alyoubi, read Sanad's report.

On July 18, 2022, it was revealed that Ahmed Ali Al-Sheikhi was arrested in April 2019 after his house in Jeddah was raided. There has been no news of him since then, and no information is known regarding the location or conditions of his detention.



Arrests in May, June and July



It has also been revealed that businessman Dr Abdullah Muhammad Ahmed Baaboud was arrested in April 2019 after his house in Jeddah was raided. There has been no news of him since then, with no information regarding the location or conditions of his detention. His arrest was on the same day as Ahmed Ali Al-Sheikhi's.

On 4 July 2022, it was revealed that businessman Yusuf Muhammad Rabie Al-Hajj was arrested in May 2018 after his house in Jeddah was raided by unknown elements. He was taken to an unknown location and there has been no news of him since.

Sanad also monitored on social media the authorities' arrest of the influencer activist, known on Snapchat as Abu Bajad Al-Harf (@a999010) in mid-July. No reasons were disclosed regarding his arrest. It has become known that Al-Harf suffered a stroke in September 2022, after which he was transferred to the prison hospital, and there has been no information regarding his health since.

It has also been revealed that Dr Amer Ali Yahya Al-Amer was arrested in February 2019 after his house was raided in Abha. There has been no news of him since, neither is there any information about the conditions of his

detention.

Sanad also documented the arrest of Malik Al-Dawish, the son of prisoner of conscience Sheikh Suleiman Al-Dawish. He was arrested in July against the backdrop of a video published on a US channel in which he talked about his father's arrest and called for his release. Malik was released at the beginning of September, but was rearrested a few days later. After his release, Sanad received important information about Malik, stating that he was subjected to brutal torture to extract confessions about the details of the video he published about his father. It was revealed that investigators used immoral and illegal means to extract information. They gave him drugs that are used for such dirty missions, which make the victim review details unconsciously. Under the drug's influence, Al-Dawish confessed to all the details of the published video and his communication with activists abroad to seek help to publish the media and circulate it to the media and lobby internationally for his father's cause. After this excised confession, they asked him to record another clip from the same place stating that his father had called him from Syria telling him that he was fine, promising to release him if he did so. He succumbed and they released him, only to rearrest him again. He is now in the same cell as Dr AbdulRahman Al-Mahmoud.

Arrests in August, September, October and November

Sanad Human Rights Organisation monitored the arrest of Mansour Al-Balushi in late August by state security agents. This followed a complaint filed by the Egyptian embassy claiming that Al-Balushi criticised the Egyptian army. Since then, he has been subjected to enforced disappearance, and there is no news of him nor of the circumstances of his detention.

Sanad also monitored the arbitrary arrest of journalist and businessman Hilal Al-Balawi, known as Iqbal, in late August. The arrest was carried out without any legal justification or clear charges convicting him of any crime. He was subjected to enforced disappearance and his fate has not yet been revealed.

Young entrepreneur Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, along with two of his companions Othman Al-Zahrani and Talal bin Abdullah, were arrested while they were welcoming Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Turkey. Human rights sources reported the method of their arrest as follows: Prior to the visit of the Crown Prince to Turkey, Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri went with his two companions residing with him in Istanbul to the Saudi embassy in Ankara, and asked if they can meet the Crown Prince if he came to Turkey. At first, the embassy refused to cooperate, but after the strong insistence of Abdullah and his friends, one of the embassy employees gave them the phone number of an official in the Crown Prince's security team. Following many contact attempts, the official responded to them and agreed to

their request, but he did not specify a time. So they decided to go to Ankara and wait for the convoy, knowing that the car they were traveling in was a Mercedes S-class, similar to the cars used by kings in their convoys, and therefore similar to the convoy of cars that carried the Crown Prince. The convoy arrived at the presidential palace, and their car entered with it as security guards did not notice them because their car resembled those in the convoy and the clothes the young men wore were Saudi.

After they got out of the cars, Saudi security guards noticed that these young men were not with the procession, and they immediately escorted them out of the rooms, and beat and tortured them, accusing them of «terrorism» and that they intended to assassinate the Crown Prince, all before confirming their identities. After they confirmed that the young people were famous on social media and came with a peaceful intent and in support of the Crown Prince, they handed them over to the Turks, asking them to deport them to the Kingdom. They did this by convincing the Turks that these young men intended to assassinate the Crown Prince, and not deporting them might cause tension between the two countries. The Turks responded and deported the young men, and after their arrival in Saudi Arabia, they were subjected to long and intensive investigation and torture sessions. After making sure they were not involved in any terrorist activities, they transferred them to Al-Hayer prison.



Arrests in August, September, October and November



Sanad also documented the arrest of a young poet, Sami Al-Amiri. Al-Amiri, who lives in Makkah, was arrested because of a poem he wrote in which he expressed his opinion. The poem Al-Amiri was arrested for mentioned the Palestinian cause and some of the current political events in the Arab area in general and the Kingdom in particular. He was released on January 2, 2023.

It was also revealed that Dr Abdullah Al-Faez was arrested on March 17, 2022, following some Tweets he published. His trial is now taking place in the Specialised Criminal Court.

Human rights sources further reported that Saudi authorities arrested the young man, Omran Al-Arkani, on October 25, without charge or an official arrest warrant, from his home in Makkah amid the continuing campaign of arrests pursuing the country's citizens. Al-Arkani is one of the activists defending the rights of the Rohingya Muslims who are facing the worst kind of injustices at the hands of Buddhist extremists in Burma.

On December 6, 2022, the US Federal Court dismissed the case against Mohammed bin Salman, Saud Al-Qahtani and Ahmed Asiri related to murdered journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. The case was dismissed due to the immunity the US government adopted

for the Saudi crown prince. Activist Sarah Watson, former director of the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch, confirmed that the court rejected a lawsuit accusing Khashoggi of being killed by Mohammed bin Salman on judicial grounds.

In early October, a member of the local council in Ranyah Governorate and the imam and preacher of the Al-Jedr Al-Hamidi Al-Faraana Mosque was arrested after he was dismissed from his position as an imam and preacher. This was after he was absent when preachers were instructed to deliver a sermon accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of terrorism. It was found that he was absent due to a health issue afflicting one of his sons, and since his arrest, his family have no information regarding his condition, and he is denied any visits or contact.

It was also revealed that Twitter activist Abdullah Al-Bayez was arrested in December 2021 after he published a tweet criticising the head of the entertainment authority.

On November 1, it was also revealed that Saeed Al-Shahrani, presenter of programs on Bidaya channel, was arrested in 2019 and subjected to enforced disappearance.

Summary of the most prominent violations in 2022

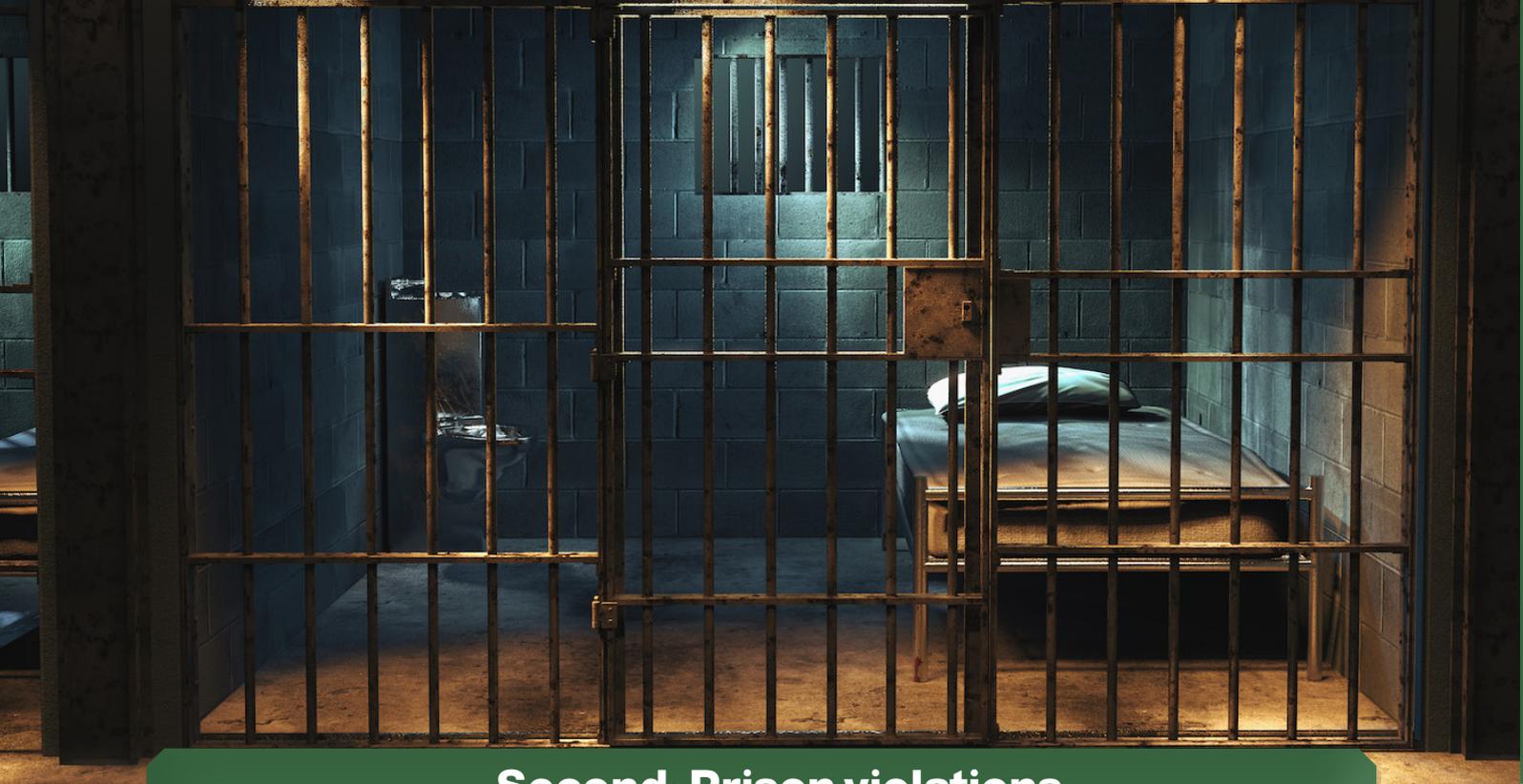
NAME	OCCUPATION	DATE OF ARREST	REASON OF ARREST	NOTABLE VIOLATIONS
Dr AbdulRahman bin Yusuf Al-Rahma	Former Sharia advisor at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs	10th January 2022	Praising Sheikh Suleiman Al-Alwan in an old video clip that was re-published	Enforced disappearance
Abdullah bin Deghathier with 14 members of his family	Latamat Monqiyah for camels	He was arrested beginning of January 2022, and was released after 10 months imprisonment	For announcing his participation in the Mazayen Qatar Camel Festival. A statement was published on his Twitter account a few days later announcing his apology for participating in the festival.	14 members of his family were also arrested
AbdulMajeed Al-Arkani	Reciter and Imam of a mosque	7th February 2022	For communicating with Turkish academics at a conference held by the Muslim World League in Saudi Arabia	He is serving an unjust 10-year prison sentence, after the Court of Appeal harshened the sentence issued against him
Musa Omar Ali Ghazi	Student at the College of the Prophet's Mosque	He was arrested in November 2018. In early February 2022, it was revealed that he had been detained since that date.	For expressing his views regarding the war in Yemen	He was arrested from the Prophet's Mosque in Madina before noon prayer
Dr Abdullah Marouf	The legal representative of the Rohingya in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and head of the Global Rohingya Centre in Makkah	It was revealed that he was arrested since end of 2022 after a campaign of incitement for his arrest and a demand that authorities expel him from the Kingdom.	His human rights activities and his defence of the Rohingya community	He has been subjected to enforced disappearance since his arrest in 2020

NAME	OCCUPATION	DATE OF ARREST	REASON OF ARREST	NOTABLE VIOLATIONS
Omar Shaybouba	Rap artist	Mid-March 2022	After electronic flies launched a fierce campaign against him for his songs criticising corruption	He is subjected to enforced disappearance without any charge
Ammar Tarboush	Syrian national; pharmacist at the Suleiman Al Habib Center	He was arrested in October 2018, but his arrest was revealed in April 2022	Because of his criticism of the kingdom's policies	His wife was forced to leave the Kingdom with her children after their residency expired; they have no breadwinner except for her detained husband. He is denied communication with his family, and is not permitted to appoint a lawyer to defend his case.
Khaled bin Awadh Al-Qahtani	Judge in the Supreme Court	12th April 2022	Authorities did not disclose the reason for his arrest. It came after he completed a judicial study he was assigned to undertake	His workplace in the Supreme Court was raided by security forces
- Abdullah Khaled Al-Luhaidan - Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Saghir - Talal bin Abdullah Al-Humaidan - Abdulaziz bin Madawi Al Jaber - Muhammad bin Abdullah Al-Omari - Muhammad bin Misfer Al-Ghamdi - Nasser bin Saud Al-Harbi.	Judges	10th April 2022	Their arrest came after they prepared judicial studies on important, highly sensitive topics that were assigned to them by higher authorities.	Sentences of up to 20 years were issued against them, without reason or charge. The judge's arrest from their workplaces was in a humiliating manner, with security forces tying their hands and feet, and blindfolded them, before taking them to an unknown destination.

NAME	OCCUPATION	DATE OF ARREST	REASON OF ARREST	NOTABLE VIOLATIONS
Dr AbdulRahman Alyoubi	President of King Abdulaziz University	Mid-May 2022	Due to a personal dispute between him and an employees at the university, after which he was maliciously maligned and arrested	as a result of which misleading facts, defaming him, forcibly concealing him, and pushing electronic armies to incite against him
Ahmed Ali Al-Sheikhi	Businessman	21st July 2022	No clear reasons	He was arrested from his house in Jeddah when it was raided and he was subjected to enforced disappearance
Dr Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad Baaboud	Businessman	Arrested in April 2019, but his arrest was revealed on 18th July 2022	No clear reasons	He was arrested from his house in Jeddah when it was raided and he was subjected to enforced disappearance
Abu Bajad al-Harf	Social media influencer and activist	Mid-July 2022	No reason was given for his arrest	He suffered a stroke inside prison and his health has deteriorated due to medical negligence
Yusuf Muhammad Rabi' Al-Hajj	Businessman	Arrested in May 2018, but his arrest was revealed on 4th July 2022	No reason was given for his arrest	He was arrested after his house in Jeddah was raided, then he was taken to an unknown destination and subjected to enforced disappearance
Dr Amer Ali Yahya Al Amer	Physician	Arrested in February 2019, but his arrest was revealed on 2nd July 2022	No reason was given for his arrest	He was arrested after his house in Abha was raided, and he was subjected to enforced disappearance

NAME	OCCUPATION	DATE OF ARREST	REASON OF ARREST	NOTABLE VIOLATIONS
Mansour Al-Balushi	Twitter activist	August 2022	After a complaint submitted by the Egyptian embassy because of a tweet in which he criticised the Egyptian army	He was subjected to enforced disappearance
Halil Al-Balawi (known as Iqbal)	Journalist and businessman	End of August 2022	Without any legal justification or clear charges of specific crimes	He was subjected to enforced disappearance
Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri	Entrepreneur	Arrested along with two of his friends, Othman Al-Zahrani and Talal Abdullah in August 2022	During Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Ankara, Turkey, and their attempt to meet the crown prince	The first arrest was in Ankara by Turkish authorities, then they were deported to the Kingdom where they were re-arrested upon arrival
Sami Al-Amiri (Abu Azzam)	Poet	August 2022	Because of a poet he posted in which he expressed his opinions	He was subjected to enforced disappearance
Malek Al-Dawish	Son of advocator Suleiman Al-Dawish, who was subjected to enforced disappearance	29th September 2022	Re-arrested 1-month after his release	The repeated detention and enforced disappearance for him, his brothers, and his father
Dr Abdullah Al-Fayez	Lawyer and former judge	17th March 2022	Because of previous tweets posted on his Twitter account ((afayez11	Arbitrary detention
Imran Al-Arkani	A human rights activist	25th October 2022	For being an activist defending the rights of the Rohingya Muslims	He was arrested after his house in Makkah was raided. The Specialised Criminal Court issued him with year prison-for a sentence

NAME	OCCUPATION	DATE OF ARREST	REASON OF ARREST	NOTABLE VIOLATIONS
Dr Muhammad Ramizan Al-Faraana	An academic and lecturer at Taif University	Beginning of October 2022	No reason was given for his arrest	He was arrested after being dismissed from being an imam at a mosque a year ago
Al-Hamidi Al-Faraana	A member of the local council in Ranyah Governorate	Beginning of October 2022	After he was absent when preachers were obliged to deliver a sermon accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of terrorism	Since his arrest his family do not know anything about him, and he is prohibited from visits or contact
Saeed Al-Shahrani	Journalist and TV presenter	Arrested in 2019, but his arrest was revealed 1st November 2022	For his expression of opinion	He was subjected to a demonisation campaign by electronic flies, then he was forcibly disappeared after which no news has been known of him
Muhammad bin Muhsin Basra	Lecturer at the Media Department at Umm Al-Qura University	December 2022	For tweets he posted 3 years ago in which he expressed his opinions	He was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment



Second: Prison violations

Under very bad conditions, the Saudi regime continues to detain a number of people who defend rights and demand freedoms. Moreover, the judicial and justice system in Saudi Arabia still lacks the most basic international criminal standards, further to the violations security services perpetrate in prisons and places of detention. There, authorities continue to confiscate freedoms and continue systematic repression and abuse of activists and those calling for reform inside prisons, in clear violation of the Convention against Torture, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has signed. The convention stipulates in Article Two: “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.” Additionally, in violation of the Saudi Law of Criminal Procedure, which stipulates in Article 2: “A person under arrest shall not be subjected to any bodily or moral harm.

Similarly, he shall not be subjected to any torture or degrading treatment.” However, all these international and local agreements and laws do not have any value in Mohammed bin Salman’s regime.

In this context, British newspaper The Independent reported that political prisoners detained for their opposition to the government in Saudi Arabia are subjected to “murder, sexual assault and inflicted with sheer brutality» during their time in prison. The newspaper confirmed that 53 prisoners were tortured, 6 others were sexually assaulted, and 14 were forced to go on hunger strike. Further, the newspaper stated that the report examined the suffering of 23 women’s rights activists, 11 of whom are still behind bars, in addition to specifying that there are 54 detained journalists.

We monitor and document

Sanad Human Rights Organisation documented a number of violations derived from documents it obtained, including: taking confessions under duress, threatening detainees from recanting their statement, subjection to long period of detention without charge, and solitary confinement.

The document confirmed that the judges who heard these defences in the Specialised Criminal Court are: Abdulaziz Madawi Al-Jaber, Abdulaziz Safar Al-Harthy, Badr Abdullah Al-Rayes, Nayef Fahd Al-Jarallah, but this was overlooked and they continued to issue unfair sentences against a number of detainees. Sanad documented this and is taking legal action against these violations.

It was also confirmed to Sanad that Dr Ibrahim bin Hayel Al-Yamani was transferred to a cell in which some extremists were detained. They threatened him with death numerous times, which means that his life is greatly endangered, and he fears he will meet the fate of Dr Musa Al-Qarni and others who were killed in prisons in an ugly manner through a third party. It is worth noting that one of the charges against Al-Yamani is his visit to Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi in Qatar, and the Public Prosecution has directed charges against him of communicating with external parties and belonging to a banned group.

Among the violations inside prisons, is what the human rights activist, Dr Muhammad bin Fahd Al-Qahtani was subjected to. He was physically assaulted, according to Middle

East Eye newspaper, who stated that his wife, Maha Al-Qahtani, indicated that one of the psychiatric patients in her husband's ward had physically assaulted Dr Al-Qahtani while he was sleeping. Prison security eventually resolved the matter.

It is worth noting that several appeals were made by Mrs Al-Qahtani to transfer her husband from the psychiatric ward and protect him. Muhammad Al-Qahtani twice previously went on hunger strike until his demands were met. On one occasion, some patients caused a fire in the prison, which caused the death of one of the detainees, according to Mrs Al-Qahtani's account.

Meanwhile, the detained young man, Abdullah Al-Hwaiti, was transferred to hospital after his health deteriorated following a hunger strike he was carrying out since March 9. The hunger strike was in rejection to the arbitrary sentences that were imposed on him threatening him with the death penalty. He was transferred to a psychiatric hospital as a result of the psychological and physical torture he was subjected to. Al-Hwaiti was arrested by the Saudi regime during its campaign of arrests in April 2020 which affected a number of the Al-Hwaita tribe and people of Khuraibeh. It followed the last session of the Al-Hwaiti trial, according to what his mother said on January 17.

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سبباً للغاية وقد حُرم من الرعاية الصحية اللازمة في الحبس
للتعذيب الجسدي بداية دخوله المعتقل، كما لاقى

وأكدت مصادر على وجود مضايقات تهمة بحق المعتقلين
هاتفة مع عائلاتهم في الخارج، وأسافت المصادر الحقوقية بأن
للمعتقلين الأجانب، وتحريمهم من التواصل مع عائلاتهم من
مستقلي الرأي إلى سلب حقوقهم المشروعة، ومنها قطع الاتصال
وعدم معرفة مكان الاعتقال، وسبب الاعتقال، وجلسات
وغيرها من الحقوق.

سبب معتقلي الرأي، ما ظل النظام في
أن يفدج عنه قسلي أكتوبر 2017
حيث أنهى مدة حكمه منذ 17
قامت بتنفيذ مدة الحكم بحق د.
مع وقف تنفيذ ثلاثة أعوام
حول الحبس، صراحةً حياة سببته
في ظل الإهمال، في بداية دخول المعتقل، كما
مع أسرته.

تصفية بحق المعتقلين الأجانب
مع عائلاتهم في الخارج، وأن
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عائلاتهم منذ أن من شهر، وقد
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المحاكمات غير العادلة التي يتنا
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We monitor and document

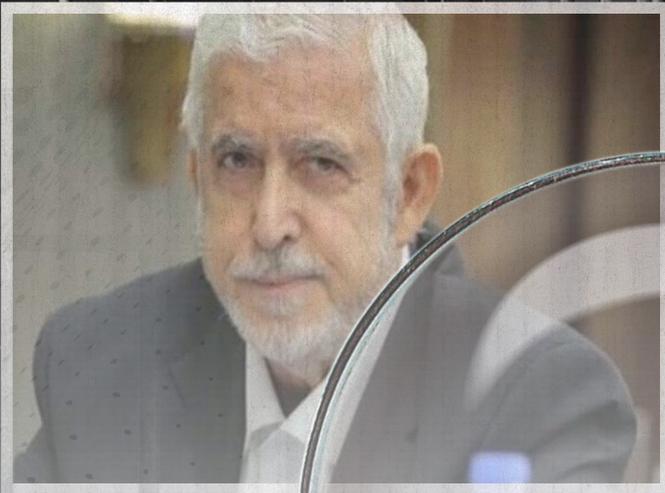
في ظل الاعتقال
الإفراج عن د. محمد
ثمانية أشهر من أن
الماضي، يذكر أن مح
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الاعتماد، وتعرض للت

وأكدت مصادر على وجود
خلال حرمانهم بإجراء
المصادر الحقوقية بأن إدارة
الأجانب، وتحريمهم من الت
كثير من ذوي معتقلي ال
الاتصال مع أبنائهم الم
الاعتقال، وسبب الاعتقال



سند معتقل الرائي، ماثل الظن في
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 قامت بتأجيل مدة الحكم بحق د.
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 خلال الحبس، صرورة حياة سببية
 في ظل الإهمال، في ظل الإهمال
 في رعاية دوله للمعتقل، كما
 بل مع أسرته.

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 المحاكمات في العادة التي يت
 من الحقيق.



In light of the systematic abuse and repression against prisoners of conscience, the regime delayed the release of Dr Muhammad Al-Khudari who was eventually released in October, 8 months after the end of his sentence which he had completed in February. It is worth noting that the Court of Appeal reduced the sentence for Dr Al-Khudari from 15 to 6 years, with three years suspended. Al-Khudari, who is 85 years old, has been in very poor health since the beginning of his detention, yet he was denied adequate health care, and was subjected to deliberate medical negligence. Despite his age, he was also subjected to physical torture at the start of his detention, and has struggled to communicate with his family.

Sources have further confirmed arbitrary harassment against foreign detainees, including preventing contact with their families abroad. Human rights sources added that Dhahban prison administration prevents international calls for foreign detainees, and has deprived them of communicating with their families for more than a month. Many of the families of these prisoners of conscience are subjected to a withdrawal of their legitimate rights, including cutting off contact with their arrested family members, not being permitted to meet them, not knowing where they are detained or the reason for their arrest, as well as being subjected to unannounced trial sessions, and other violations of their rights.

Deaths in detention

Sanad Human Rights Organisation learned that the person who killed detainee Dr Musa Al-Qarni confessed to his crime and was addressed before a jury, and is now being held in one of the authority's prisons.

On December 6, 2022, the US Federal Court dismissed the case against Mohammed bin Salman, Saud Al-Qahtani and Ahmed Asiri related to murdered journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. This is because of the immunity that the US government had adopted for the Saudi crown prince. Activist Sarah Watson, former director of the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch, confirmed that the court had rejected a lawsuit accusing Khashoggi of being killed by Mohammed bin Salman on judicial grounds.

Information has been received confirming the death of detainee Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al-Kameli, 29, inside prison. His family received a call from the prison administration informing them of his death and asking them to receive the body. Signs of torture were visible on his body, which suggests that he died due to brutal torture inside his place of detention.

Human rights sources also announced the death of 58-year old Sheikh Mutlaq bin Nughimish Al-Dawish inside the regime's detention facilities, two years after his arrest and with nothing known about the details of his death. It is noteworthy that Bin Nughimish was arrested in November 2019 because of his demand for the release of the Sheikh of the Otaiba tribe.



Deaths in detention

Judicial and penal procedures

Violations of human rights in Saudi Arabia do not stop at arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, but also include farcical trials conducted by Saudi courts as it is not permitted for detainees to appoint a lawyer. Furthermore, there is no clear indictment and legal proceedings are held in secret. These closed courts also see the reversal of verdicts that are about to end, replacing them with long-term rulings, confirming the farcical nature of these courts, also confirming that they are subject to the dictates of the regime of Muhammad bin Salman. This is in clear violation of the local penal laws approved by the Council of Ministers Law in Resolution No. 12 dated 81435/1/ AH.

The Saudi judiciary continues its injustice against human rights activists through the Specialised Criminal Court issuing severe prison sentences to people for their human rights activities and for expressing their dissenting opinions. Additionally, female human rights defenders have been subjected to judicial decisions banning them from travel after their release from prison.

A study conducted by Grant Liberty non-profit human rights organisation revealed that there were 311 prisoners of conscience in Saudi Arabia during the reign of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



Deaths in detention

Retrial and toughening of sentences is the theme of 2022

The year 2022 was distinguished by the number of detainees that were retried after their sentences had ended or had their sentences extended without legal justification. Sources revealed that the Court of Appeal in Saudi Arabia re-tried Sheikh Khaled Al-Rashed and added another 8 years to his initial sentence, making his sentence a total of 23 years. Al-Rashed's sentence was supposed to expire at the end of 2021, but instead of being released, he was retried in an arbitrary procedure that lacks the most basic international judicial and criminal standards. Upon his arrest, Al-Rashed was subjected to abuse and enforced disappearance. He still struggles to contact his family and authorities have not allowed him to appoint a lawyer.

Human rights sources revealed that the sentence against detained businessman Osama Filali, who was arrested by the Saudi regime in 2018 along with his brother Hisham Filali, has been extended from 3 years to 5.

Meanwhile, after the prison sentence against detainee Dr Issam Al-Owaid ended more than a year ago, the Saudi judiciary re-tried him without legal justification. Dr Al-Owaid is an academic and a member of the teaching staff at Al-Imam University, and he is the Director of the Advocacy and Projects Department at the Al-Emaar Charitable Foundation. He memorised the Qur'an in his childhood, and has written many books of interest to society, women, and students of knowledge.

Human rights sources also announced that the detainee, Dr Muhammad Al-Hudhaif, received arbitrary sentences from the Saudi Court of Appeal which increased his prison sentence from 9 years to 13 years. Al-Hudhaif was arrested by the regime in 2016 following several charges the regime fabricated against him, including harming national unity, communicating with hostile entities, and insulting a friendly country.

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2022



سبب معتقلي الرأي المعتاد في
أن يفاجئ عنه قسراً في دور
ه حيث أثيرت قضية كرهه منذ
فان في المحكمة بحق د.
معتقلين في أعوام متتالية،
للحقوق.

تصلي
ة مع
ان تمت
عائلاتهم
سلب جن
مقابلة
المحاكمات
من الحقوق.

في ظل التنكيل
الإفراج عن د. م.
ثمانية أشهر من
الماضي، يذكر أن
الحضري، من عا
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تسير من ذوي معتقل
الاتصال مع أبنائهم
الاعتقال، وسبب الاعت

Retrial and toughening of sentences is the theme of 2022



Sanad received confirmation from close sources that the Court of Appeal increased the sentence against Dr Saud Al-Fennisan from 2 years to 7 years, with a suspension of execution for 3.5 years. The sentence was submitted to the Supreme Court for approval. The Specialised Criminal Court had sentenced Dr Al-Fennisan in October 2021 to 2 years in prison on charges of inciting public opinion. Dr Al-Fannisan is an 85 year old professor of Sharia at Imam Muhammad bin Saud University, and he was arbitrarily arrested in March 2020 without any legal grounds or a judicial ruling for his arrest. He was arrested for a tweet he posted on his Twitter account about the Covid pandemic being a punishment because of the sins of people.

In February 2022, the Specialised Criminal Court sentenced Noura Al-Qahtani to 13 years in prison for several charges related to the peaceful expression of her opinion on Twitter. Al-Qahtani is a 49-year-old mother of five children. The court was not satisfied with this ruling. After she appealed the ruling and asked for the sentence to be reduced because she has children to care for, the court in August increased the sentence to 45 years, which is the longest sentence in Saudi courts against a woman.

The case of Noura Al-Qahtani reflects the painful reality of the Kingdom and the file of prisoners of conscience, which is becoming increasingly complex with the absence of justice, the disregard of law, and the violation of human rights to fuel repression, all at the hands of Bin Salman's regime.

The Court of Appeal increased the sentence

of reciter AbdulMajeed Al-Arkani to 10 years, after his previous sentence was about to expire. It is worth noting that the Specialised Criminal Court issued a 5-year prison sentence against him, which was later reduced to 2.5 years, before the Court of Appeal increased it.

The Court of Appeal also overturned the release ruling issued against the imam and preacher of the Great Mosque of Makkah, Dr Saleh Al-Talib, and issued a 10-year prison sentence against him despite reports that a Saudi court had acquitted him of all charges. He was arrested in 2018 on charges of inciting public opinion because of his objection to the expansion of entertainment projects and wasting money on them in exchange for other projects.

The Supreme Court overturned the decision to release the imprisoned associate professor at the University of Dammam, Abdulaziz Abdul-Latif, and re-tried him after the end of his sentence. It also overturned the release decision against Syrian preacher, Sheikh Muhammad Salih Al-Munajjid, and re-tried him.

The Specialised Criminal Court also re-tried human rights activist Mohammed Al-Rabeeah after the end of his 6-year sentence, shortly before its end, which prompted him to declare a hunger strike.

The Specialised Criminal Court issued a verdict acquitting some Palestinian and Jordanian detainees, and their files were transferred to the Supreme Court for the verdicts to be ratified, but there has been no development in their cases so far.

Mass sentencing

In continuation with the persecution of the sons of Al-Huwaitat, the Specialised Criminal Court issued new rulings, issuing a 27-year prison sentence against Abdel Nasser Ahmed Al-Hwaiti and a 20-year sentence against his son Ahmed Abdel Nasser Al-Hwaiti. It is reported that authorities arrested Abdel Nasser Al-Hwaiti in November 2020 with his wife Halima Al-Hwaiti, his son Ahmed and his siblings. Halima Al-Hwaiti was subjected to enforced disappearance. The Specialised Criminal Court also issued a 35-year prison sentence against Mahmoud Ahmed Al-Hwaiti, a 50-year prison sentence against Abdullah Al-Hwaiti, and a 50-year sentence against Abdullah Dakhil Al-Hwaiti.

The torrent of long sentences that women have been issued with by the Saudi regime did not stop with Noura Al-Qahtani. Detained academic Salma Al-Shehab was issued with a 34-year prison sentence by the Court of Appeal for publishing tweets calling for freedom for prisoners of conscience in the Kingdom. Salma Al-Shehab is a dental hygienist and student at the University of Leeds, and a lecturer at Princess Noura bint Abdul Rahman University, and is a mother of two. She was arrested while returning to the Kingdom for a vacation.

The Specialised Criminal Court also sentenced university student Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Sayel to 5 years in prison, and sentenced one of the dignitaries of the Eastern Province, Professor Muhammad Al-Ezzi, to 15 years, and sentenced the young

Omran Al-Arkani to 25 years. The Court also sentenced Saad Ibrahim Al-Madi to 16 years imprisonment for 14 tweets he published on Twitter. Al-Madi is a Saudi citizen who holds US citizenship and resides in Florida where he runs a project. He was arrested while returning to the Kingdom on a family visit.

The Court of Appeal in Saudi Arabia issued an arbitrary ruling against the detainee lawyer Miteb Dhafer Al-Omari - a sentence of 7 years imprisonment on charges related to electronic crimes according to the Saudi regime. Saudi security had arrested him in 2019 because of tweets on Twitter expressing his opinion.

In September, the Specialised Criminal Court issued a number of arbitrary rulings sentencing Mansour Al-Raqiba to 18 years in prison and Qassem Al-Qathradi Al-Alamy to 8 years. On the same day, Rashid Al-Alma'i was sentenced to 8 years, and Muhammad Akdwan Al-Alama'i to 20 years. It also sentenced Muhammad bin Ali Al-Hazmi to 23 years imprisonment, and Dr Ali Al-Alama'i to 23 years. Human rights sources also confirmed the verdict against a professor at Umm Al-Qura University, Muhammad Mohsen Basra, sentencing him to 30 years for publishing tweets expressing his opinion three years ago.

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سند معتقلي الرأي، ماثل النظام في
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 قامت بتنفيذ
 وقف تنفيذ
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 في اليس،
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 مع أسرته.

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Mass sentencing

في ظل التنكب
 الإفراج عن د. م
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 الماضي، يذكر أن
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سنة مئة تلي السراي، ماطل الظن، في
 أن يفرج عنه قبل أكتوبر 2021
 ه حيث أنهى سنة حكمه منذ
 قامت به
 وقف تنفيذ
 خلد فيه، مرور
 في السجن،
 بدياسة دول
 مع أسرته.
 تصفية بحق
 مع عائلاتهم
 من اتصبا
 مالاتهم منذ
 باب حنود، م
 م مقابلة
 المحاكمات ع
 من الحقوق.



The Specialised Criminal Court also issued prison sentences ranging between 10 and 18 years against a group of Egyptian Nubians. Regarding this, Human Rights Watch condemned the Saudi regime for continuing to unjustly detain a group of Egyptian Nubians in its detention centres on arbitrary charges related to expression, association and terrorism. The Saudi government arrested four men in October 2019 after a Nubian association to which they belong organised an event to commemorate the contributions of Nubian soldiers in the October 1973 war with Israel. Saudi authorities released them later that year, but they rearrested the four men, as well as six others in July 2020. The Nubians are still facing the brutality of detention in the regime’s racist detention facilities, currently languishing in Asir prison in Abha after being transferred there in May 2021.

The Specialised Criminal Court concluded 2022 by sentencing Abdullah Gilan to 10 years in prison, and issued a 15-year sentence against Saleh Abdulaziz Al-Tuwaijri, as well as a 30-year sentence against Prince Abdullah bin Faisal Al-Saud.

Human rights sources indicated that the Saudi judiciary reduced the prison sentence issued against Dr Amer Al-Alami from 9 years to 4.5 years. Dr Al-Alami was arrested in March 2019 because of his relief work. He was known for his humanitarian work in caring for low-income people from remote villages and, being a doctor of internal medicine, he was taking care of the health of those displaced. He was also an Imam at Othman Al-Ghamdi Mosque in Abha.

Travel restrictions

In recent years, the term «travel ban» has been associated with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is currently the country that most uses this type of punishment, making it the largest prison in the world. Private sources indicated to Sanad that the number of those banned from traveling exceeds 70,000 citizens, including the families of detainees, activists and dissidents, including members of the Al Saud family itself and those close to it. Those who are banned from traveling only discover this once they are at an airport or land port where they are informed that they are banned from traveling by order of State Security. No reason is given nor is there any judicial ruling explaining the reasons for the

ban.

Following each release of a detainee, unfair sentences are usually issued. Even after completing their prison sentence, they are still banned from travelling. The list of those banned from traveling includes the families of detainees and dissidents residing abroad, including children and the elderly. The latter are openly used as hostages to pressure or force the detainee or activist to remain silent.

For more information, see Sanad's report on travel ban restrictions.



Travel restrictions

Executions

On March 3, 2022, in an interview with The Atlantic newspaper, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated that the death penalty has become limited to cases in which one person kills another. But the crown prince did not abide by his statement as his regime continued to use the death penalty as a tool of political blackmail and government repression against the crown prince's political opponents and adversaries. These executions lack transparency and any integrity of criminal procedures, from improper investigation procedures, through to the defendant's inability to obtain their rights, such as allowing the appointment of lawyers and informing the defendant of the charges against them, and the lack of transparency and publicity of trials that involve an independent judiciary without interference or pressure from any person or entity.

Sanad announced its rejection of the regime's use of the death penalty as a means to terrorise people and prevent them from claiming their basic rights. It also announced its rejection of all manifestations of the threat of the death penalty against intellectuals, activists and detainees for expressing their opinions and positions regarding the regime, and called on the Saudi regime for transparency and clarity in such penal procedures.

The number of those executed during 2022 reached 147, according to Middle East Eye. On one day alone - Saturday, March 12, 2022

- the Saudi regime executed 81 people on charges related to terrorism, including 41 from the Shiite minority in the Kingdom. The Saudi regime claimed that those sentenced to death were sentenced "because of their involvement in or attempted murders, deliberately disturbing security and targeting the lives of innocents". Sanad believes that these executions lack transparency and the integrity of penal procedures, and are nothing but a means by the regime to terrorise people and prevent them from claiming their basic rights. This was confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights who indicated that their monitoring systems indicate that some of those executed were sentenced to death after trials that did not meet fair standards or due process guarantees, and for crimes that are not the most serious of crimes as required by international law. The Commission also condemned this crime, stressing that this act exceeded, in just one day, the total number of executions that were said to have occurred in the whole of 2021 (67 executions). The Commission called on the Saudi regime to stop all executions, impose an immediate ban on the use of the death penalty, and reduce the sentences against those sentenced to death.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International said that the mass execution of 81 people - Saudi and non-Saudi citizens - on March 12, 2022, indicates a terrifying escalation in Saudi Arabia's use of the death penalty, bringing the total number of executions in the country by that date to 92 in 2022 alone. Amnesty reports: "Such a shocking number of deaths also reveals Saudi Arabia's lack of transparency in death penalty cases since we know that the number of trials resulting in prisoners being placed on death row is always significantly higher than what is publicly reported." Saudi Arabia must ensure that courts do not accept any "confessions" or statements extracted through torture.

Human Rights Watch issued a statement saying: " Saudi authorities' execution of 81 men on March 12, 2022 was its largest mass execution in years despite recent promises to

curtail its use of the death penalty." It added, "Given the widespread and systematic violations in the Saudi penal system, it is very likely that none of the men received a fair trial." Human Rights Watch claims that in order to deflect from the country's image as a pervasive human rights violator, Saudi Arabia is spending billions of dollars hosting major international events with celebrities, artists, and athletes to whitewash its poor human rights record and deflect efforts to hold its leadership accountable for these abuses. It concluded saying: "For global celebrities looking to cash in on Saudi authorities' effort to whitewash their bloody reputation, they should consider this latest travesty of justice, a mass execution of 81 people, and ask themselves if it's really worth it."

Executions

في ظل التنكيد
الإفراج عن د.
ثمانية أشهر م
الماضي، يذكر
الغضري، من
وتعرض الحظ
النعيم، ويعرض
و أكدت مصادر
خلال جرماتهم بإ
المصادر الحقوقية
الأجنبية، وتجرم
كثير من ذوي
الاتصال مع أب
الاعتقال، وسبب

Threatened with execution

On March 2, 2022, the Criminal Court in Tabuk issued a verdict to execute the minor Abdullah Al-Hweiti in retribution, replacing the previous sentence of the death penalty, which was overturned by the Supreme Court on November 10, 2021. Human Rights Watch criticised the Saudi government for violating international resolutions that prevent the execution of minors. The organisation stated that Abdullah Al-Hweiti was 14 years old at the time of his alleged crime, and his death sentence was overturned by the Saudi Supreme Court, only to then be reissued a death sentence by a lower criminal court on March 2, 2022. Human Rights Watch indicated that the Criminal Court in Northern Tabuk ignored evidence of the authorities themselves which proved that Al-Hweiti had an alibi. The Criminal Court based its judgment almost entirely on his confessions and those of the other defendants. Human Rights Watch has always denounced the widespread violations in the Saudi criminal justice system, against defendants in criminal cases that include long detention periods, the delay of trials, and other violations.

The Criminal Court also issued death sentences against each of Atallah Musa Muhammad Al-Hwaiti, brother-in-law of Abdul-Rahim Al-Hwaiti, and Ibrahim Saleh Abu Khalil Al-Hwaiti, cousin of Abdul-Rahim Al-Hwaiti, as well as Shadli Al-Hwaiti, all on charges related to their refusal to be forcibly displaced from their homes.

On August 8, the Specialised Criminal Appeals Court upheld a death sentence against Abdullah Al-Derazi, who was 19

when he was arrested in 2014. Al-Derazi spent three years in detention before his trial began in late August 2017, despite him telling the judges, during the course of the trial, that the confessions presented by the Public Prosecution as evidence against him were extracted from him under torture during the investigation period where he was denied legal assistance. After several court sessions, a death sentence was issued, and the Public Prosecution did not provide any material evidence of his alleged commission of crime, except for the confessions whose authenticity was challenged. Al-Darazi faced torture during the arrest process as well as during his detention, which led to burns around his eyes and broken teeth, as well pain in his knees and ears, leading to him being transferred to hospital more than once.

On October 16, 2022, the Specialised Criminal Court issued a ruling ordering the killing of five young men: the minor Youssef Al-Manasef, Ali Al-Mabiouq, Muhammad Al-Labbad, Muhammad Al-Faraj, and Ahmed Al-Adgham.

According to the Guardian newspaper, the Public Prosecution demanded the execution of Dr Awad Al-Qarni on charges of having a Twitter account and using WhatsApp, according to court documents obtained by the newspaper. It is mentioned that Dr Al-Qarni was arrested in September 2017 as part of a campaign against a number of intellectuals, scholars and academics.

Conditional releases

The Saudi regime released a number of detainees after they completed their sentences, but this release was accompanied by several restrictions and harsh conditions, including banning from travel, social media use, and any political or human rights activity. The release of some detainees came as a result of a deterioration in their health, as was the case with Dr Abdulaziz Al-Zahrani. It was confirmed to Sanad that Dr Al-Zahrani's release was due to him having cancer and his condition had significantly deteriorated due to medical negligence and a failure of providing him with the necessary medical care in a timely manner. Dr Al-Zahrani, who works as a professor at the Faculty of Arts at King Saud University had been subjected to enforced disappearance since his arrest in 2017, and there was no news of him until the government released him recently without charge.

Sanad confirmed the release of Dr Fahd Al-Sunaidi after more than 4 years of abuse and arbitrary detention. He was arrested by the State Security as part of its campaign of arrests in September 2017 which targeted elite journalists, academics and activists. Al-Sunaidi faced harsh conditions during his detention, and was subjected to psychological and physical torture, facing deprivation and isolation for long periods. His release was incomplete as he is still banned from traveling and is denied freedom of movement or media appearance.

The Saudi regime also released the young

detainee, AbdulRahman Al-Arifi, the eldest son of Dr Muhammad Al-Arifi, who was arrested in December 2018 due to tweets published on his personal Twitter account. Human rights sources stated at the time that his arrest was to blackmail his father and prevent him from writing and appearing in the media.

Sanad also learned of the release of Fatima Al-Balushi, along with her child, Kayan, after a painful detention that lasted more than 5 years. Al-Balushi was subjected to arbitrary arrest by State Security in early 2017, even though she was pregnant. Her daughter was delivered in prison and held with her until her recent release. During her detention, Fatima Al-Balushi faced many violations, including enforced disappearance, harassment, defamation, ill-treatment, and psychological and physical torture.

Saudi authorities also released Zainab Al-Hashemi after she was arbitrarily detained for more than 8 months, without any legal justification. The release of Mrs Al-Hashemi was conditional, which makes her vulnerable to arbitrary arrest at any moment. The conditions of releasing Al-Hashemi included banning her from traveling permanently outside the Kingdom, deleting all her accounts on social media, as well as forbidding her from expressing her opinion in any activity inside the Kingdom.



Conditional release is a phenomenon of government repression, which makes the released person vulnerable to arrest and further repression according to Human Rights Watch.

It was also confirmed to Sanad that the Saudi regime had released Dr Ali Abu Al-Hassan after he was detained for more than 4 years following his arrest as part of the September 2017 campaign of arrests. Dr Al-Hassan was subjected to very harsh conditions during his detention. He was prevented from hiring a lawyer, and he was prevented from temporarily leaving prison when his mother died in early 2019. He was also denied communication with his relatives and family.

Meanwhile, news sources confirmed the

release of Princess Basma Bint Saud, along with her daughter, Suhood Al-Sharif, after being detained for more than 3 years. It is reported that Princess Basma bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, a human rights activist and media personality, was arbitrarily detained with her daughter in mysterious circumstances in March 2019.

Saudi authorities also released Dr Saad Al-Shahrani who was arrested in the April 2019 arrest campaign without any legal justification or clear charges. He spent 3 years in detention without any charge being brought against him. Dr Al-Shahrani is the Secretary General of the International Association of Muslim Scholars. During his arbitrary imprisonment, he faced ill-treatment and denied communication with his family.

It was also confirmed to Sanad that Saudi authorities had released Mrs Naima Al-Matrod after suffering more than 6 years of arbitrary imprisonment. Mrs Al-Matrod was arrested in February 2016 and the Specialised Court arbitrarily sentenced her to 6 years imprisonment for expressing her opinion. Her release was tied with conditions and restrictions, including a 6-year travel ban.

It was confirmed to Sanad that authorities released the young blogger Raif Badawi after spending 10 years in prison for expressing his opinion regarding the policy of separating religion and state. Badawi was arrested in 2012, and has served his 10-year sentence, completing it on March 1. It is worth noting that the release of blogger Raif Badawi was conditional - he is banned from traveling for 10 years and is banned from speaking on social media. He was subjected to many violations during his detention, and in 2020 he entered a hunger strike to protest the ill-treatment he received by the prison administration, and for not allowing him to communicate with his family.

Sanad also learned that the Saudi government released Dr AbdulAziz bin Ahmed Al-Hamidi following his arrest in November 2021 without giving any reason for his arrest. Dr Al-Hamidi is a professor of Theology at Umm Al-Qura University, and holds a master's degree and a doctorate in Theology. He has authored a number of books and has made extensive efforts to combat extremism.

The Saudi regime also released the young Hani bin Muhammad Al-Fuhaid after facing systematic enforced disappearance in government detention centres for 10 months.

It is reported that Al-Fuhaid was arrested by security forces in May 2021 and subjected to enforced disappearance. Al-Fuhaid is a young science student in his twenties. He was arrested as part of the May 2021 arrest campaign that targeted young people, especially activists in the Kingdom. During his imprisonment, he was denied any family visits and was not permitted to hire a lawyer.

It was confirmed to Sanad the news of the release of 51-year old Mrs Fawzia bint Gharmallah Al-Zahrani who was arrested in early 2021 without reason and spent 8 months in detention. Mrs Al-Zahrani was forcibly disappeared after her arrest, and she was only allowed to communicate with her family once, where she informed them of her arrest, without revealing her whereabouts.

Sanad also learned that a faculty member at King Saud University, Dr Fahd bin Saleh Al-Ajlan, who was detained in November 2021, was released without any charge.

Saudi authorities also released Muhammad Abu Saab after 7 years detention.

Authorities also released cleric Habib Al-Khabbaz after he was detained for more than 6 years. This followed a series of public stances in which Al-Khabbaz criticised the Saudi government's violations against its citizens.

The regime also released 63-year-old US citizen of Yemeni origin, Muhammad Salem, after he spent a month in detention. He was arrested whilst leaving the Grand Mosque in Makkah.



Forced Displacement (Jeddah threats):

The Saudi regime continues its demolition and displacement operations in Jeddah, as the regime claims they stand in the way of development projects. Ten neighbourhoods in Jeddah have been completely demolished, while other neighbourhoods are being razed as part of the Saudi government's so-called redevelopment projects.

Some residents of neighbourhoods that do not fall within the demolition parameters were shocked to find graffiti on their homes warning them to evacuate in preparation for their imminent demolition, culminating in almost a third of Jeddah being completely demolished. The demolitions have left thousands of citizens forcibly displaced from neighbourhoods in Jeddah, estimated by statistics from human rights organisations to be more than 72,000 people. Hundreds of families have already become homeless since authorities did not provide them with alternative homes, neither did they compensate them enough to buy or rent alternative homes.

We affirm our rejection of all forms of demolition in Jeddah, and consider it a form of forced displacement that is internationally prohibited. We call on the Saudi regime to urgently provide alternative housing for those affected, to work to compensate them in a fair manner, and to address the wave of high housing prices that resulted from this heinous violation.



Tragedy of the ages - 'The Bidoons are citizens without a nation

The suffering of more than a quarter of a million Bidoon citizens in Saudi Arabia continues, with deprivation of the most basic civil rights in the form of marginalisation, government brutality, racism, and segregation, as a continuation of their unceasing suffering.

The Bidoon suffer several grave violations, including the refusal to grant them Saudi nationality, which denies them the right to education, health services, employment opportunities, social benefits, freedom of movement and residence between cities, and official transactions in institutions. The Bidoon suffer humanitarian, economic and social deprivation and outright marginalisation.

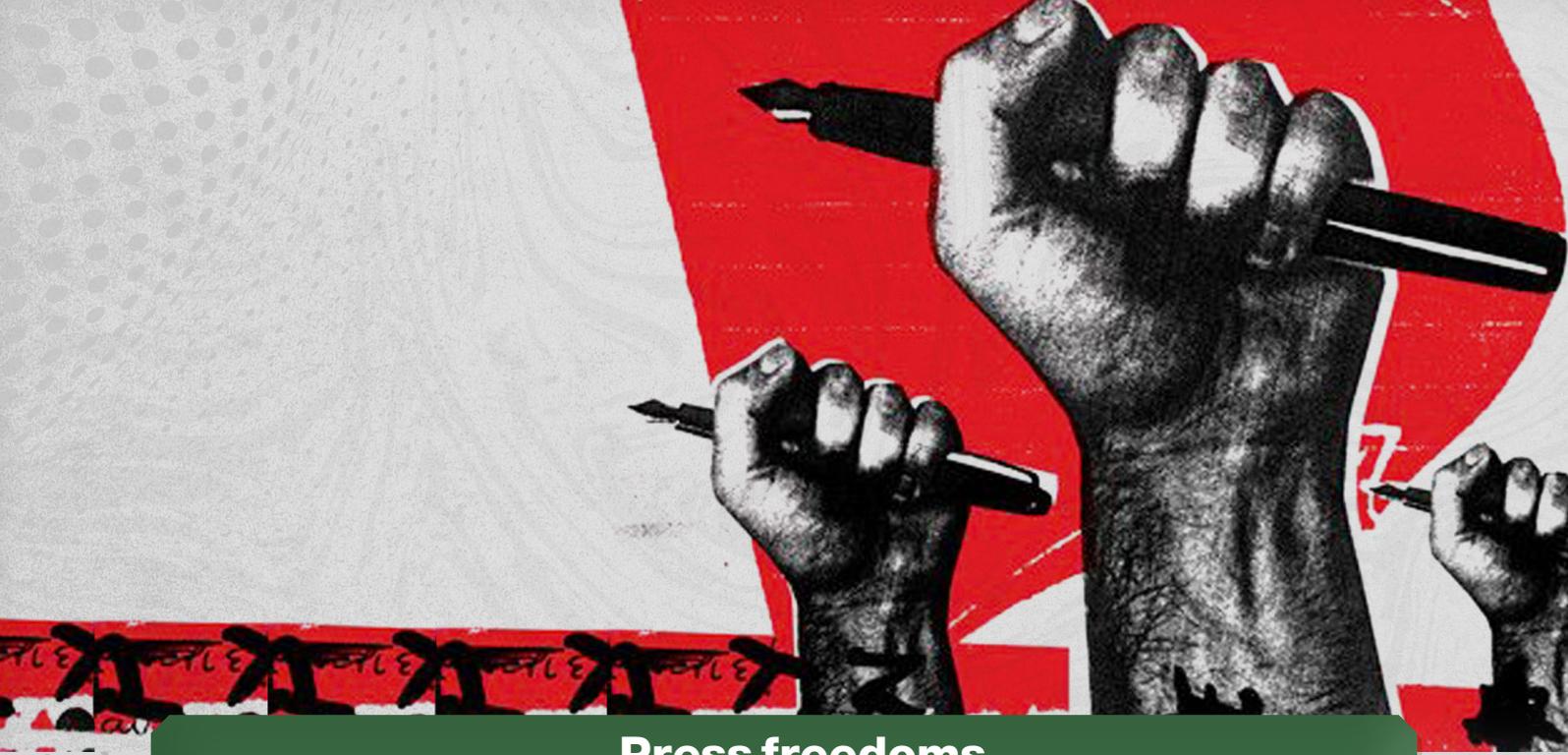
Sanad condemns the marginalisation of the Bidoon by the Saudi authorities, and calls on the concerned authorities to stand up to the Saudi government to put an end to the marginalisation that is happening against a people whose legitimate rights of naturalisation has been denied.



The Black Day - 'Khamis Mushait's orphans'

At dawn on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, video clips were leaked showing the moment the State Security attacked a group of girls inside a girls orphanage in Khamis Mushait. According to the videos, a group of security forces violently assaulted girls inside the orphanage, and pictures revealed the effects of torture and abuse perpetrated on the bodies of these young victims.

According to human rights sources, the girls staged a sit-in inside the orphanage, in an attempt to attain their rights and demand an improvement in their conditions inside the orphanage. It is worth noting that the Province of Asir issued a statement opening an investigation into the incident, but no further steps were taken against the perpetrators following this investigation. Sanad affirms its condemnation of this immoral criminal act, which reveals the extent of the brutality of the Saudi regime, and demands that the perpetrators be held accountable, and ensure such violations can never happen again.



Press freedoms

There is no voice louder in Saudi Arabia than the voice of the regime. This sentence is no longer valid for use in the current era of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Indeed, the regime does not allow mouths to open except when permission to speak is given. Saudi authorities have arrested dozens of journalists, such as Malek Al-Ahmad, Khaled Al-Alkami, Zuhair Kutbi, Zana Al-Shehri, Abdullah Al-Maliki and others. Journalist Turki Al-Jasser is still forcibly disappeared since his arrest in 2018 amid real fears that he was actually killed under torture in prison.

On World Press Freedom Day, Reporters Without Borders released its annual report

on press freedom in the world, and Saudi Arabia ranked 166th out of 180 countries. The organisation said: “Free media does not exist in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as journalists are subject to strict surveillance, even if they are abroad.” The report indicated that the number of journalists detained by the Saudi regime has more than tripled since 2017.

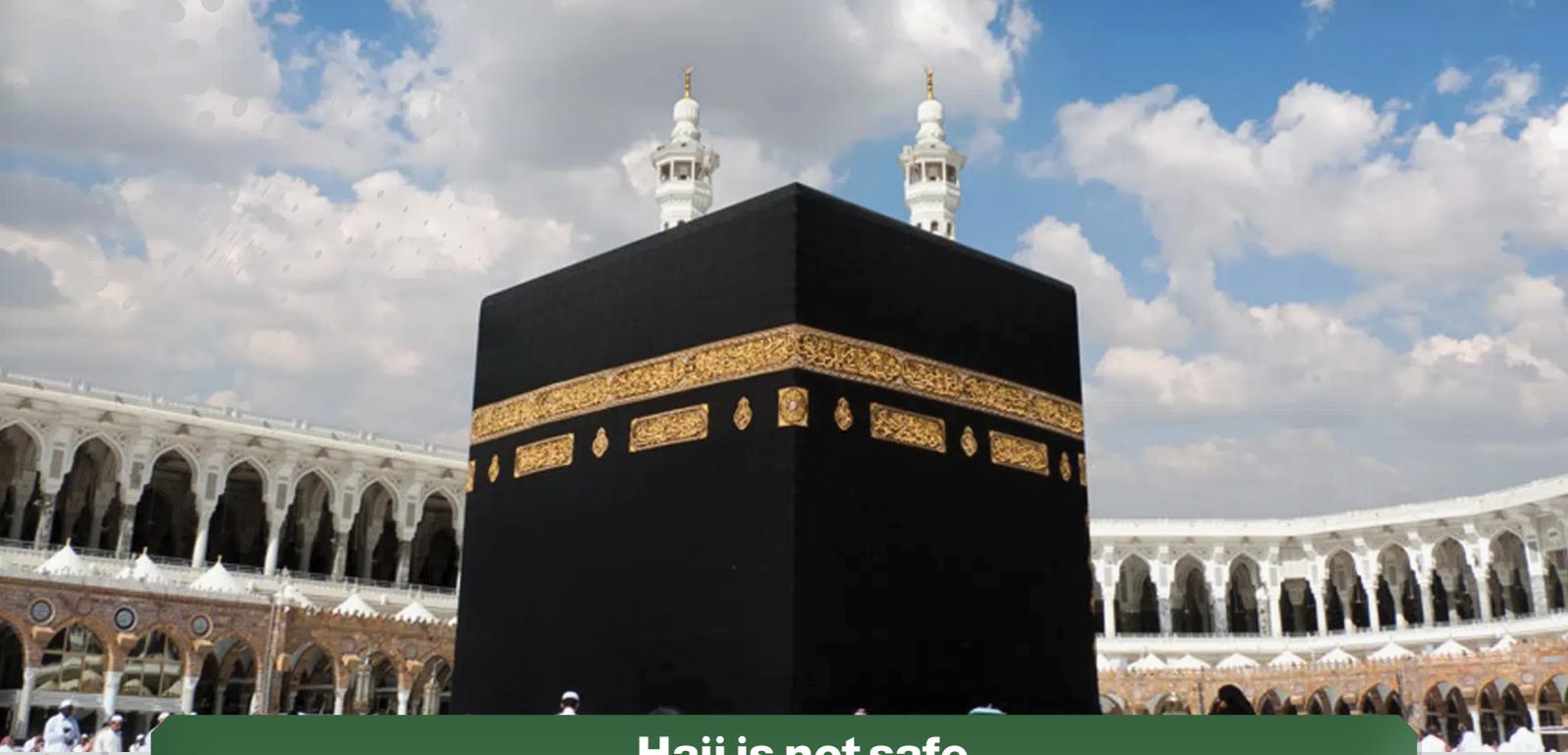


Assigning judges

In a serious deterioration of the judicial system in Saudi Arabia, Sanad learned that decisions were issued to transfer the services of some employees of the Public Prosecution Office to the Ministry of Justice to work as judges in the Specialised Criminal Court. Among the names of those transferred to work as judges in the Specialised Criminal Court, as confirmed to Sanad: Imad bin Muhammad Al-Tuwaijri, Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman Al-Dakhini, Saeed bin Muhammad Al Rifda, Muhammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Farhoud, Ahmed bin Aqil Al-Saqiyah and Abdullah bin Shaya Al-Qahtani.

It is worth noting that these names were

among the Public Prosecution team that submitted the lawsuit against a number of prisoners of conscience in Saudi Arabia, and pleaded against them before the Specialised Criminal Court. This coincides with the arrest of a number of judges of the Specialised Criminal Court from their workplace in a humiliating manner, accusing them of high treason.



Hajj is not safe

It has been confirmed to Sanad that the Saudi regime prevented individuals from Hajj because of their position on some issues or because of their exercise of freedom of expression. The regime also lured some pilgrims by granting them regular visas for Hajj and Umrah only to arrest them upon their arrival and deport them to other countries where their lives are at risk.

Among the victims is the Uyghur religious scholar Aimidoula Waili and his friend Nuermaiti Ruze, who were held in Dhahban Central Prison in Jeddah before they were transferred to Riyadh. The Saudi regime did not give Waili and Ruze a reason for their arrest, and they are at imminent risk of being forcibly deported to China. Amnesty International condemned the behaviour of the Saudi regime and warned against resorting to the forcible deportation of two men to China. Amnesty International said the Saudi authorities must halt plans to extradite the two Uyghur men, where they would be at

grave risk of torture amid a brutal crackdown on Muslim minorities in the country's Xinjiang region.

In the same context, a number of human rights organisations and academic institutions launched a campaign under the title: 'Hajj is not safe' to shed light on a number of violations and abuses practiced by the Saudi regime against pilgrims, Umrah performers and visitors to holy places in Saudi Arabia. The campaign aimed to shed light on Saudi Arabia's use of Hajj as a tool for repression and a means of violating rights. Sanad called on human rights organisations and representatives in the Islamic world to participate in the campaign to protect the security of pilgrims and visitors to the Two Holy Mosques.



The trial of Khashoggi's killers

On April 7, the Turkish Criminal Court ordered the suspension of the trial of 26 accused of killing journalist Jamal Khashoggi in his country's consulate, and the transfer of the case to the Saudi judiciary. This came at the request of the Turkish Public Prosecutor, which prompted human rights organisations to warn against this step. Amnesty International issued a warning to the Turkish authorities against referring the case to Riyadh in light of the impunity enjoyed by criminals in Saudi Arabia.

On December 6, 2022, the US Federal Court dismissed the case against Mohammed bin Salman, Saud Al-Qahtani and Ahmed Asiri related to murdered journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. The case was dismissed due to the immunity the US government adopted for the Saudi crown prince. Activist Sarah Watson, former director of the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch, confirmed that the court

rejected a lawsuit accusing Khashoggi of being killed by Mohammed bin Salman on judicial grounds. Sanad issued a statement condemning this decision.

PRESS RELEASE

Sanad Human Right Organisation is following with concern the Turkish Criminal Court's decision today, Thursday, 7 April 2022, to suspend trial of 26 Saudis accused in the gruesome killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018.

Last week, the Turkish Public Prosecutor asked the court to suspend the trials of the accused and for the case to be transferred to Saudi Arabia. On Thursday, a Turkish court ruled to suspend the trials in absence of the 26 Saudi suspects and transfer the case to Saudi Arabia, raising fears of impunity for a crime that sparked international outrage.

Sanad strongly condemns this political move that sacrifices justice and human rights for resolving Turkey's tensions with regional countries. Such unlawful step will greatly contribute to blurring the features of this horrendous crime, and consequently promotes injustice, perpetuate violations, and encourages impunity at the expense of justice, integrity, fairness, and accountability.

Istanbul court's shameful decision comes despite numerous warnings that it will only lead to a cover up of the heinous crime, especially since the vastly politicised Saudi criminal justice system lacks credibility and fails to satisfy basic standards of transparency, judicial independence, and fairness.

The involvement of several prominent Saudi officials in Khashoggi's murder case certainly abolishes any possibility that Saudi authorities would hold a fair trial and ascertains the fears that the regime will cover up the perpetrators, completely bury the case and deny victims the justice they deserve. It is also proven that the sham trial that Saudi regime had held over Khashoggi's murder is legally and criminally incorrect, and thus, there is no reason to expect different outcomes in any future trials over the same case.

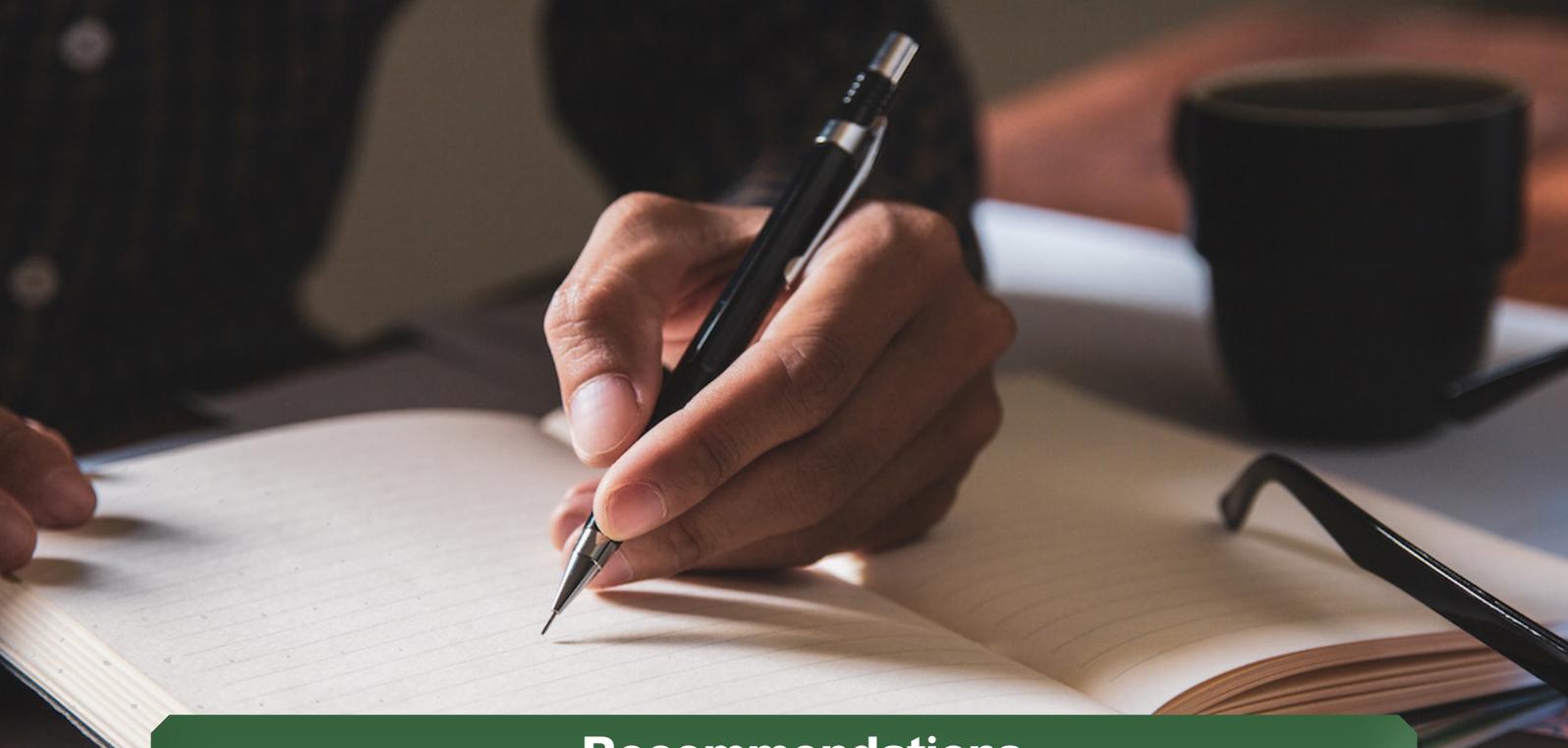
Sanad calls on the international community to carry out its responsibility and push for a credible and transparent trial on Khashoggi's murder, to hold accountable all those accused and involved in the murder, without exceptions. The international community should not allow this case to be demolished by political expediency or allow political interference to derail justice, which will only induce more heinous transnational crimes and encourage impunity.

7 April 2022
London, United Kingdom



SANAD ORGANISATION

www.sanad.uk



Recommendations

- Sanad Human Rights Organisation calls on the international community, with its official and unofficial institutions, to carry out its duties and implement its obligations towards the continuous and increasing violations that citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are subjected to.
- The Saudi regime must stop all campaigns of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, release all prisoners of conscience, stop their frivolous trials, drop prison sentences, and lift the imposed travel bans.
- Sanad calls on all local and international human rights organisations to maintain pressure on the Saudi regime so that all civil and political rights of the Saudi people are guaranteed without restriction or threat.
- Sanad calls on the Saudi regime to return all those forcibly displaced to their homes and to compensate them, and to put in place laws that ensure that these violations do not recur.
- Sanad calls on the Saudi authorities to stop the demolition of properties in Jeddah and to expedite the reconstruction of citizens' homes, and to compensate them with a fair compensation for the demolition of their homes.
- Saudi authorities must reform the judicial, criminal, and penal systems in line with international standards, and ensure that human rights are not violated and dignity is preserved.
- Sanad calls on Saudi authorities to stop using the death penalty as a means of political blackmail and as a tool to put pressure on opponents and dissidents of the regime.
- The Saudi Ministry of Interior must completely reform the conditions of the Bidoon population, and stop developing temporary solutions. Sanad calls on the international community to pressure the Saudi authorities to solve the Bidoon problem, grant them citizenship, and stop violating their rights.



Sanad's 2022 human rights report

**A year of doubling
sentences**