



Date : 14/11/2020

## **The Saudi authorities must release the detained Palestinian and Jordanian citizens**

**The charges against the detainees are political and not legally based**

**Detainees were subjected to torture and enforced disappearance and denied a fair trial**

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK) renewed its call on Saudi Arabia to release Palestinian and Jordanian citizens who have been detained in Saudi prisons for more than twenty months. They have been charged with supporting the Palestinian cause.

Their trial session will take place on November 15, 2020.

AOHR UK stated that the Saudi security forces launched arrest campaigns since February 2019, against 68 Palestinians and Jordanians residing in Saudi Arabia and Saudi sponsors and detain them in different prisons, including Al-Ha'ir, Asir, Abha and Dhahaban prisons.

Some of the detainees remained in solitary confinement. The detainees have been held without charges or being brought before the courts.

They have been deprived of the right to visitations or contacting their families.

Over a year after their arrest, the Saudi Public Prosecutor in Riyadh charged many of them with loose charged, most notably affiliating to a terrorist entity, supporting and financing it.



Most of the detainees have been subjected to enforced disappearance, humiliation, torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment for months. In addition to this, they were deprived the right to appoint lawyers to defend them during the first court hearing, as the Saudi authorities prevented lawyers from representing them or attending court sessions.

The detainees were transferred in groups from Jeddah to Riyadh to attend their court sessions before the Specialised Criminal Court, despite the outbreak of the Coronavirus and the seriousness of its impact on the lives and health of the detainees, especially the sick and the elderly.

On November 04, 2020 the third court hearing was held and its will continue to convene until November 23, 2020.

AOHR UK confirmed that the trials against Jordanian and Palestinian detainees are of a political nature and are not legally based, while the authorities are attempting to give it a criminal nature to distort their image and justify the violations they were subjected to.

All the detainees are legally residing in Saudi Arabia with valid residency permit and have not committed any violation of Saudi law.

The Saudi authorities rejected all mediation attempts and all calls for the release of the detainees.

It is worth noting that there is absence of any legal impediment in these cases, and there is a possibility of revoking the detainee's residency permits and deporting them back to their countries.

AOHR UK launched a campaign of solidarity with the Palestinian and Jordanian detainees in Saudi Arabia, where it called on all activists, human rights and civil society organisations, journalists and media interested in human rights, to support the campaign by all means in order to form a public opinion calling for the release of the detainees and ensure that they are enabled to all legal and human rights.



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK  
المنظمة العربية لحقوق الإنسان في بريطانيا

AOHR UK called on the Palestinian and Jordanian ministries of foreign affairs and all concerned authorities to prioritise the issue of the detainees and establish contact with the Saudi authorities in these regards.

AOHR UK renewed its call on the international community to condemn the grave human rights violations committed by the Saudi authorities, to put an end to it and to press it to immediately release all arbitrary detainees.

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK)