

URGENT ACTION

JORDANIAN RELEASED FROM DETENTION

A Jordanian man who had been held incommunicado in Saudi Arabia since 6 January was released on 7 April. It had been 91 days since he was last seen, being arrested by security forces at the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. Throughout his detention, he was denied access to family and lawyers, and was not charged with any offence.

Khalid al-Natour, 27, was released on 7 April 2013 from al-Ha'ir prison in Riyadh and flown to Jordan. He had been initially held at the General Investigation Directorate's prisons in Riyadh, run by the Saudi Arabian Interior Ministry, before being moved to al-Ha'ir prison for the last two weeks of his detention. He was not charged at any time with any crime and was not told of any reasons for his detention. Khalid al-Natour was not given access to a lawyer or allowed contact with the outside world. He was held in solitary confinement for a total of 25 days and was only permitted time outdoors one month after his initial arrest. There has been no formal statement issued by the Saudi Arabian authorities confirming or explaining the reasons for his detention.

Khalid al-Natour, a Jordanian web developer, was arrested upon arrival at the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, on 6 January 2013. He had arrived from Jordan with four of his colleagues on a business trip (all five men work for the same internet holding company). On 23 December 2012 he was granted a single-entry visa to Saudi Arabia, while his four colleagues were granted multiple-entry visas by the Saudi Arabian embassy in Jordan.

Khalid al-Natour is a member of *Herak*, a Jordanian pro-reform movement that has called for political and economic change in Jordan as well as increased political freedoms. In September 2011, he was arrested near the Saudi Arabian consulate in 'Amman, Jordan, for allegedly insulting a Jordanian security officer during a demonstration protesting against Saudi Arabia's involvement in Bahrain. He was subsequently released on bail a day later.

No further action is requested from the UA network at this time. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

Name: Khalid al-Natour

Gender m/f: m

This is the first update of UA 52/13. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/007/2013/en

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