

URGENT ACTION

PALESTINIAN FATHER AND SON ARBITRARILY DETAINED

On 4 April 2019, Palestinian national Dr Mohammed al-Khudari (81) and his son Dr Hani al-Khudari (48) were arbitrarily arrested and remain in detention without charge. They were held incommunicado and in solitary confinement for the first three months of their detention. Dr Mohammad al-Khudari requires adequate medical attention and treatment for cancer.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

*King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 11 403 3125*

Your Majesty,

*On 4 April 2019 at 5:00 am, Palestinian national **Dr Mohammed al-Khudari** (81) was arbitrarily arrested from his home in Jeddah by Saudi officials, without presenting a warrant. Later the same day, Dr Mohammed al-Khudari's son, **Dr Hani al-Khudari** was arrested while leaving his work at Um al-Qur'a University in Mecca, by men in plain clothes who asked him for directions and then forced him into their car.*

Both men were forcibly disappeared for one month after their arrest and held incommunicado and in solitary confinement for the next two months of their detention. A month into Dr Mohammed al-Khudari's arrest, his wife received a phone call from authorities in Dhahban Prison requesting his medical records. Two weeks prior to his arrest Dr Mohammed al-Khudari had undergone surgery. There is serious concern for his health as he was detained while he was being treated for cancer, especially as the most recent medical tests indicate that his tumour has grown, requiring urgent medical attention.

Dr Mohammed al-Khudari and Dr Hani al-Khudari have been arbitrarily detained in Dhahban Prison without charge or trial since April 2019. They were repeatedly interrogated without a lawyer present.

We therefore call on your Majesty to release Dr Mohammed al-Khudari and Dr Hani al-Khudari immediately unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and tried in proceedings that respect international standards for fair trial, including the inadmissibility of coerced statements. In the interim, ensure that both men are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, have access to lawyers, and allowed to contact their family, and that Dr Mohammed al-Khudari is immediately granted adequate medical attention.

Yours sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr Mohammed al-Khudari is a Palestinian national and a retired doctor and politician, who has been residing in Saudi Arabia for approximately 30 years. Dr Mohammed al-Khudari was the official representative in Saudi Arabia of the Hamas de facto authority in Gaza, and responsible of coordinating relations between the Hamas de facto authority in Gaza and the government of Saudi Arabia. He resigned from his position and has been inactive for the past 10 years due to his illness.

Dr Hani al-Khudari is a Palestinian national with no political affiliations. He completed his Ph.D. in computer science and is currently a professor at Um al-Qur'a University, where he was arrested.

Dr Mohammed al-Khudari and Dr Hani al-Khudari have been subjected to gross human rights violations including enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, being held incommunicado and in solitary confinement. Furthermore, both men were interrogated behind closed doors without the presence or participation of their lawyers. Their treatment and conditions of detention placed a great deal of stress and psychological pressure on both men, especially Dr Mohammed al-Khudari who was reportedly heard crying in his cell every night. The denial of access to adequate medical care deteriorated further the health conditions of Dr Mohammed al-Khudari, who received a diagnosis while in detention that his cancer had developed. Such conduct violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

The arrests of the two Palestinian nationals is part of a wider crackdown by the Saudi Arabian authorities on Palestinians residing in Saudi Arabia with a perceived link to Hamas de facto authorities. Since February 2019, the Saudi authorities have detained approximately 60 Palestinians visiting or residing in Saudi Arabia, including students, academics, and business men. [According to the family members](#) of the detained Palestinians, they were subjected to enforced disappearance, held in solitary confinement and detained incommunicado. Until this day, the detained Palestinians have been held in detention without charge or trial and have no access to legal representation.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic/English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 23 January 2020

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Dr Mohammed al-Khudari (him/his) and Dr Hani al-Khudari (him/his).