

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST DETAINED INCOMMUNICADO

Saudi Arabian human rights activist Abdulrahman al-Hamid has been detained incommunicado since his arrest on 17 April. He may be a prisoner of conscience.

Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamid received a phone call from the Criminal Investigation Department in Burayda in the central province of al-Qassim, on 17 April, asking him to report to them. He went there, together with his son, after 'Asr Prayer (around 4pm) and was immediately arrested. Apparently he was told that a warrant for his arrest had been issued by the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution (BIP), and that he was to be kept in detention.

His family have not heard from him since, and the authorities have refused their requests to allow him visits by his family and legal representative. He has diabetes, which causes complications for which he recently underwent a surgical operation on his foot. He had been receiving daily medical care to clean the wound and prevent any infection. It is not known whether he has been receiving such treatment while he has been detained. His arrest may have been related to his human rights activism.

Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamid is 52 years old and is one of the founding members of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA) an independent NGO reporting on human rights violations in the Kingdom. He served as ACPRA's first president. On 12 April 2014 he signed a statement along with other activists calling for the Minister of Interior to be put on trial "for his policy in suppressing public freedoms". His brother is prisoner of conscience Dr Abdullah al-Hamid.

Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamid may have been detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and association, in which case he should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and given regular access to his family, lawyer and any medical treatment he may require;
- Asking them what charges he faces.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 JUNE 2014 TO:

King and Prime Minister

King Abdullah 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: (via Ministry of the Interior)
+966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of the Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed
bin Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933,
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 11 403 3125 (please keep
trying)
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin
Abdulkareem Al-Issa
Ministry of Justice
University Street
Riyadh 11137
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 11 401 1741
+966 11 402 0311

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Saudi Arabian authorities have continued their widespread campaign to persecute civil society activists and human rights defenders with complete impunity, using both the courts and extrajudicial means such as the imposition of travel bans. Scores of activists, including members of ACPRA, have borne the brunt of the authorities' repression. ACPRA, set up in October 2009, has reported on human rights violations and helped many families of detainees held without charge to bring cases against the Ministry of Interior before the Board of Grievances, an administrative court with jurisdiction to consider complaints against the state and its public services.

Two ACPRA co-founders, Dr Abdullah al-Hamid and Dr Mohammad al-Qahtani, were sentenced on 9 March 2013 to 10 and 11 years' imprisonment respectively, to be followed by travel bans of equal duration. They had been convicted of a list of offences, among them "breaking allegiance to and disobeying the ruler", "questioning the integrity of officials", "seeking to disrupt security and inciting disorder by calling for demonstrations", "disseminating false information to foreign groups", "violating Article 6 of the information technology law" and "forming an unlicensed organization" (understood to be ACPRA) (see further information on UA 257/12, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/010/2013/en>). The court also ordered the disbanding of ACPRA, confiscation of its property and the closure of its social media accounts.

A fourth founding member of ACPRA, Dr Abdulkareem Yousef al-Khoder, was convicted on 24 June 2013 of similar charges and was sentenced to eight years in prison and a 10-year travel ban. On 6 January 2014 the Court of Appeal in al-Qassim overturned his sentence, ruling that it had been handed down by a judge who was not impartial and had a personal conflict with Dr Abdulkareem al-Khoder. The case was sent back to be heard by a new judge in the Criminal Court in Riyadh and a new hearing will take place on 6 May 2014. Dr al-Khoder remains in detention despite repeated requests to release him. (see UA 167/13, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/005/2014/en>)

A number of other independent human rights groups and activists have also been harassed by the Saudi Arabian authorities. Fadhel Maki al-Manasif was sentenced by the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh on 17 April to 15 years' imprisonment, to be followed by a travel ban of 15 years, and a fine of 100,000 Saudi riyals (about US\$26,600). The charges are related to his activism and his reporting and documentation of discrimination against Saudi Arabia's Shi'a Muslim population. He is understood to have been tortured and otherwise ill-treated in detention (See UA 304/11, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/008/2014/en>). Another human rights defender, lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair, was arrested on 15 April 2014 following a hearing before the Specialised Criminal Court in Riyadh. It is not known why he was arrested, but he is in solitary confinement in al-Ha'ir prison (See UA 98/14, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/009/2014/en>). Six prominent reformists, including Dr Suliaman al-Rashudi and Dr Saud al-Hashimi, have been serving lengthy prison terms after they circulated a petition calling for political reform and discussed a proposal to establish an independent human rights organization (see UA 107/13, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/014/2013/en>).

Name: Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamid

Gender m/f: m

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