

# URGENT ACTION

## 83-YEAR-OLD DETAINEE NEEDS URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari (83 years old) is suffering a deteriorating health condition while in detention, where he is being deprived of adequate medical treatment for his cancer. On 8 August, the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh, sentenced Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari and his son Dr. Hani al-Khudari to lengthy prison sentences, in a mass trial marred by serious due process violations, including being denied adequate access to a lawyer. Amnesty International urges the Saudi Arabian authorities to drop the charges against both men and release them. Pending their release, they must be granted immediate access to adequate medical care.

**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  
Twitter: @KingSalman*

*Dear Your Majesty,*

The health situation of Dr. **Mohammed al-Khudari** is rapidly deteriorating in detention in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, where prison authorities continue to deprive him of the urgent specialized medical care he requires for his cancer. On 8 August, the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC) sentenced the retired Palestinian politician to 15 years in prison, with half the term discounted given his age; leaving him with 7.5 years to serve in detention. He was sentenced in a mass trial of 68 individuals, including his son, **Dr. Hani al-Khudari**. Both men had been charged with “joining a terrorist entity” - understood to be Hamas de facto authorities – and this trial was marred by numerous and serious violations of their due process rights, including enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, being held incommunicado and solitary confinement.

Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari suffers from prostate cancer; the prison authorities have not allowed him to consult a specialist doctor for over a year now, which has caused his condition to worsen. Additionally, he has lost mobility in his right arm due to the harsh sleeping conditions in his cell, as well as half of his hearing. Furthermore, he suffers dental problems on the left side of his mouth, resulting in teeth loss and difficulty eating. Consequently, Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari has significantly lost weight. Recently, the family reported to Amnesty International that Dr. Mohamed’s health has further deteriorated, as he now suffers incontinence, herniated discs, knee pains, bone fragility and general frailty. “I have never seen him in such state, he is physically and psychologically exhausted”, a relative told Amnesty International. Despite his life-threatening situation, Dr. Mohammed al al-Khudari has not been granted access to a cancer specialist nor to a dentist, even though he has been admitted to hospital a few times. Similarly, Dr. Hani al-Khudari, suffers anaemia and kidney stones, and has been refused adequate medical care. Furthermore, both men contracted COVID-19 in prison. Considering his advanced age and severely deteriorating health, Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari has submitted several requests to serve his prison sentence under house arrest, but Saudi authorities have not responded to date.

***We call on your Majesty to ensure that Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari is immediately transferred to a hospital to receive the urgent specialized medical care he needs. Furthermore, we reiterate our call that the trumped-up charges against him and Dr. Hani al-Khudari are dropped and that both men are released.***

*Yours Sincerely,*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari and Dr. Hani al-Khudari were arbitrarily arrested on 4 April 2019 and remained in detention without charges until 8 March 2020. Both men were 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. In November 2020, they were transferred to Abha prison, which lacks medical specialists and the standard care necessary. On 8 March 2020, both men were charged before the SCC with “joining a terrorist entity” - understood to be Hamas de facto authorities - as part a mass trial of 68 individuals. Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari was additionally charged with holding several leadership positions within the entity.

The treatment and detention conditions have placed a great deal of stress and psychological pressure on both men, especially Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari. The denial of access to adequate medical care has caused further deterioration of the health of Dr. Mohammed al-Khudari. Such conduct violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. Furthermore, both men continue to be deprived of regular communication with their family, as prison authorities can simply cancel their weekly call or monthly family visit without explanation.

The arrests of the two Palestinian nationals is part of a wider crackdown by the Saudi Arabian authorities on Palestinian, Jordanian and Saudi Arabian nationals residing in Saudi Arabia with a perceived link to Hamas de facto authorities.

Amnesty International has documented the [Saudi Arabian authorities' use of the Specialized Criminal Court \(SCC\) since 2011 to systematically silence dissent](#), concluding that SCC judges have presided over grossly unfair trials, handing down prison sentences of up to 30 years and numerous death sentences under vague provisions of the counter-terror and anti-cybercrime laws.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Arabic, English

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 17 November 2021

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

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

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/3692/2021/en/>