



Sent Behind the Sun: Arbitrary Detention in Saudi Arabia

**Information provided to the European Parliament's Committee
on Foreign Affairs in view of the preparation of their report on
EU-GCC relations**

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1 About Alkarama

Alkarama actively works on cases defending human rights defenders and political prisoners who have been arbitrarily detained in many countries in the Arab region, including Saudi Arabia. We have prepared this information in view of the upcoming report by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding EU-GCC relations.

Alkarama (Dignity) is a registered Swiss Foundation. It was founded in 2004 by a team of volunteer human rights lawyers and activists working on human rights in the Arab world. We concentrate our work on four priority areas: arbitrary detention, enforced and involuntary disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial executions.

We work closely with local actors in the Arab world in order to bring the concerns of victims of serious human rights abuses to the attention of the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations. Sources of our information include victims of human rights abuses, their families, lawyers and human rights defenders with access to first hand information.

It is extremely difficult to obtain information about what is happening in Saudi Arabia. Individuals giving information to human rights organizations are frequently detained – and in the past 5 years, Alkarama has worked with nearly 10 individuals who courageously provided information to the UN and to us about human rights abuses, and they are now being detained without charge or trial in Saudi Arabia. Further information on any of the points raised below can be provided upon request.

2 The Problem of Arbitrary Detention in Saudi Arabia

Arbitrary detention¹ is widespread in Saudi Arabia. Thousands of individuals are detained in harsh conditions without charge, trial or hope of release. These victims are known as people who have been 'sent behind the sun' – an expression commonly used by prison guards, victims and their families. This human rights violation is often accompanied by others, such as the torture and ill-treatment of detainees and poor conditions of detention. Furthermore, many are detained for having exercised their internationally-protected freedom of expression or assembly.

Due to the opaque nature of the Saudi Arabian authorities, there are no accurate statistics regarding the number of detainees in Saudi Arabia– therefore information on those being detained arbitrarily is not known. However, credible human rights reports estimate the number to be in the thousands. It is reported that the Saudi general intelligence services *al-mabahit al-aama* and security forces currently hold around 2,000 terrorism suspects without legal charge or trial, some having been detained for over five years. In July 2007, the Minister of Interior disclosed that security forces had detained 9,000 security suspects between 2003 and 2007, and that 3,106 of them remained in detention. Further mass arrests are reported to have been carried out since 2007.

Although the law prohibits detention without charge, in Alkarama's experience, and as reported by other credible human rights organisations, Saudi Arabia's security forces (*al-mabahit al-aama*) regularly detain without charge **human rights defenders, academics and advocates of political**

¹ Alkarama uses the definition of 'arbitrary detention' as defined by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD). For example, it includes those being detained without charge or trial, and or without due legal process.

WGAD has defined arbitrary detention as detention which is contrary to the human rights provisions of the major international human rights instruments; more specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 9 and 10) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 9 and 14).

The Working Group has defined 3 categories of arbitrary detention which contravene human rights provisions of the major international human rights conventions:

Category 1. Where there is no legal basis for the deprivation of liberty (for example when a person is kept in detention after the completion of their prison sentence or where they were never charged or tried for an offence or despite an amnesty law applicable to them); **(no legal basis for detention)**

Category 2. When a person is deprived of their liberty because they have exercised the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the UDHR and the ICCPR (for example, signing a petition advocating constitutional reforms) **(for exercising their human rights and freedoms)**

Category 3. When a person has been deprived of their liberty after a trial which did not comply with the standards for a fair trial set out in the UDHR and other relevant international instruments (for example not being permitted to have a lawyer) **(not receiving a fair trial)**

reform ("reformers"), persons who publicly criticize the government and security suspects and others, on a large scale. Alkarama classifies such detainees to be political prisoners as they are detained for posing a threat to the State.

3 Categories of those arbitrarily detained in Saudi Arabia

3.1 Human Rights Defenders

Human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia are detained because of limits of freedom of speech, expression and association in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities accuse such people of threatening "national unity" and of damaging the national reputation of Saudi Arabia. Human rights defenders have suffered persecution for:

- documenting violations
- seeking remedies for victims of such violations through the provision of legal, psychological, medical or other support
- combating cultures of impunity which cloak and perpetuate systematic and repeated breaches of human rights
- mainstreaming human rights culture and information on human rights at a national, regional and international level.

Alkarama has worked on numerous cases of human rights defenders arbitrarily detained in Saudi Arabia including lawyers and those who collect information and provide it to human rights organizations inside and outside of Saudi Arabia.

Such persecution of human rights defenders is in clear breach of UN Resolution 53/144 Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (8 March 2009).

Amongst others, Alkarama has worked on the case of **Mr Saad Ben Zair**, a human rights lawyer who is currently detained in secret detention, following ongoing harassment over many years. Saad Ben Zair had worked as a defence lawyer for members of the Reformers' movement, as well as other critics of the government, including prisoners of conscience. He is the son of Said Ben Zair, another prominent Saudi human rights defender, who is also currently arbitrarily detained. Mr Saad Ben Zair was first arrested on 27 July 2002 after he publicly denounced his father's imprisonment, and later told international media that his father had been held more than eight years without trial. Following his release three years later (in 2005) he was again arrested on 19 June 2006 for openly criticising the Saudi authorities' pervasive usage of arbitrary detention. After a period of secret detention, he was released without trial a few months later. His latest arrest dates from 10 April 2007, and he remains missing to date. His whereabouts are currently unknown, and it is feared that he is subject to ongoing torture and ill-treatment, which is systematically practised by the Saudi authorities.

Dr Said Ben Zair, Mr Saad Ben Zair's father, is also currently arbitrarily detained. Following criticism of the Saudi government, he was arrested in 1995 by agents of the Ministry of Interior, and detained without trial for 8 years before being released without any legal proceedings. Following his experience, he joined the Saudi Reformers' movement and participated various in public debates on political situation in Saudi Arabia. His open criticism of not only Saudi but regional politics eventually led him to an appearance on Al-Jazeera on 15 April 2004. He was arrested on five days later and remains in prison despite a Royal pardon.

Alkarama sent Dr Zair's case to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on 8 July 2004 and also to the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression on 21 October 2004. However, following his 2007 arrest the WGAD re-opened his case and adopted Opinion 36/2008 on 21 November 2008, which determined his detention to be arbitrary.

3.2 Saudi Reformers

Saudi "reformers" are neither a political party nor even a tightly knit group. They are a network of people who primarily periodically initiate petitions and seek to attract the signatures of other like-minded people. Reformers include academics, writers, bureaucrats, journalists, businessmen, lawyers, engineers and physicians. They are drawn from various religious and political orientations

They have been described as follows: "...the signatories of the Vision statement and their followers constitute an **impressive coterie of highly educated and patriotic individuals**, mostly from the indigenous middle-class, whose **intellectual competence and creative powers are second to none in the Arab/Islamic orbit. These are the Kingdom's "Best and the Brightest," who fervently seek to play a constructive role in shaping their country's evolution through troubled times**". (emphasis added) (source; Richard Dekmejian, "The Liberal Impulse in Saudi Arabia", *The Middle East Journal*, Summer 2003; 57,3).)

The most fundamental principle for the reformers is to build a "state of constitutional institutions" in order to guarantee the basic right of all citizens to justice, equality, and political participation. They believe the establishment of constitutional institutions will lead to the realization of a social contract between citizens and their leaders and to a national unity based on consent.

They seek to do this through the writing of petitions addressed to the ruling family. Their first petition, signed by 104 signatories was in January 2003 to then-Crown Prince Abdullah and it remains their basic credo. It called the Strategic Vision, and seeks to establish basic civil and political rights, including separation of powers between the executive, judicial and legislative branches; a representative council to be elected by all citizens; an independent judiciary; a Royal proclamation to guarantee human rights for all citizens; and the establishment of a space for civil society.

The most recent petition was sent to the King on May 2010 by a group of 77 signatories, academics, writers and human rights activists. The petition condemned secret tribunals, sought permission for human rights activists to monitor prisons and demanded political and judicial reforms – including a constitutional monarchy with separation of powers.

Despite initial dialogue with the authorities in 2003, the Saudi authorities now closely monitor all political activity and take punitive action – arrest and detention - against all persons expressing any opposition (real or perceived) to the government.

Alkarama cites the case of **Mr Suleyman Saleh Al-Reshoudi**, a 75-year old lawyer and former judge as an example of this category of detainee. Dr Al-Reshoudi, who is a member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA) was arrested on 2 February 2007 from his home in Jeddah. This arrest took place at the same time as eight other intellectuals who were also detained. Members of the group were planning the creation of a committee to strengthen the defence of civil and political rights and to request constitutional reform. In mid-2009, following more than 2 years of indefinite detention, his lawyers filed a lawsuit on his behalf against the Ministry of Interior. At present, he remains detained in solitary confinement.

3.3 Security suspects

In recent years, thousands of people have been detained on security grounds. These include

- a) People suspected of belonging to or supporting extremist Islamist groups such as al-Qaida or other groups;
- b) Religious scholars; and
- c) Those opposed to the Saudi Arabian government and its links with the USA and other Western countries

Most of those detained for political reasons (such as human rights defenders, government critics and advocates of reform) are publicly accused of terrorism or security related matters. This is part of a wider trend for governments to abuse its antiterrorism prerogatives and to use vague and broadly

drawn terrorism-related offences to include the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and other legitimate activities.

Mr Al-Reshoudi (outlined above) is one such example. He has publicly been accused of terrorism by the Saudi authorities. Other examples include the cases of **Mr Abdul Hakim Gellani**, a British citizen of Yemeni origin. Mr Gellani was first arrested in November 2005 by Saudi intelligence services at a hotel following a business trip there, and held for 1 year and 8 months without charge or trial during which time he was severely tortured. Eventually the British consulate intervened and the torture stopped, but he remained in custody. In May 2006, Mr Gellani began a hunger strike and he was released on 19 July 2006 without any charges or appearing before a judge. Following his release on bail, Mr Gellani was re-arrested in August 2007 after giving an Al-Jazeera interview and punished by being kept for three months in a tiny cell where he was unable to stand. During his Al-Jazeera appearance he mentioned the fact that Saudi authorities tortured him in prison and confiscated his UK passport upon his release, effectively prohibiting him from travel leaving the country. He was belatedly accused of terrorism offences and currently remains detained without charge or trial.

Mr Abdullah Zuhir was abducted on 20 February 2006 by Saudi Intelligence officers from his internet cafe and later disappeared. He was detained incommunicado for several months and was eventually able to make contact with his family in the summer of 2006. He spent four years without charge or access to a lawyer, and we are informed that finally in January 2010 he was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for watching a broadcast by a Saudi political opposition member in London. In early 2008, two years after his arrest, Mr Zuhair was finally allowed family visits, and it came to light that he was being held for having had "contact with the opposition members abroad" although no formal charge was laid. A curious episode was to follow in June 2009. Mr Zuhair was transferred to Riyadh prison and put in an office in the presence of several intelligence services' agents who told him that he had been "sentenced". No details were given and the nature of the judgement remains a mystery. He was then sent back to Dahbane prison where he remains to this day. In January 2010, he finally learned the nature of the verdict – 30 years imprisonment for viewed a broadcast by a Saudi political opposition member in London. Mr Zuhair has been unable to challenge this decision.

Under international human rights law, in cases where the authorities have genuine concern about security matters, the accused must still be charged with a definable offence and provided with a fair trial. However, many of those detained have not been charged, nor do they have any prospect of a fair trial or release. Security detainees suffer from prolonged incommunicado detention, lack of access to lawyers, unfair trials which are based on confessions extracted under torture, and no right of appeal. Some remain detained following completion of their sentence.

Many security detainees are from Iraq, Yemen and Pakistan (some estimate up to 30% of security suspects are of Yemeni origin). Their situation is often even more difficult than that of detained Saudis due to a lack of family visits and because their consular offices do not visit them. Furthermore, foreigners often lack the informal access to Saudi decision-makers to whom Saudi family members sometimes have access. Alkarama is currently treating or has treated cases of arbitrarily detained foreigners from Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, Libya, Ireland, United Kingdom, Bosnia, France and Lebanon.

4 Weakness of the legal system in Saudi Arabia

Based on Alkarama's cases and experience, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Opinions and credible human rights reporting, the most common key problems meaning detention is arbitrary in Saudi Arabia include:

- a. Detainees are not formally charged with any offence;
- b. Detainees are not informed of the duration of the custody order;
- c. They are not brought before a judicial officer to consider the lawfulness of their detention;
- d. Detainees are not allowed to consult or to appoint a lawyer to act on their behalf;
- e. They are not otherwise provided the possibility to challenge the legality of their detention;
- f. No dates for trial are set;
- g. If detainees do receive a trial – the trial does not meet minimum fair standards i.e. the detainee has not had a lawyer, they have been held in secret, no meaningful right of

- appeal; and
- h. Detainees continue to be detained after the expiry of their sentence.

Detention is always undefined and indefinite. This is a key problem and cause of great suffering because the length of detention is never known by the detainee – or by their family. Detainees are commonly held without charge or trial and the lack of laws and procedures being applied to those being detained.

The criminal justice system, despite recent reforms, continues to fall far short of international standards governing procedures for arrest, detention and trials, as well as prisoners' rights. Recent reforms have included the enactment of the Law on Criminal Procedure, the Code of Lawyers Practice, both introduced in 2001, and of the Judiciary Law and the Court of Grievances Law, both introduced in October 2007. However, the criminal justice system continues to operate largely in secret, and on a summary basis fostering impunity for human rights perpetrators, allowing for long-term prolonged incommunicado detention and detention of suspects without charge or trial. It provides no rights for suspects to challenge in court the legality of their detention or to lodge complaints about other abuses such as torture and other ill-treatment.

For example, the Law of Criminal Procedure (LCP) does not permit a detainee to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before a court, fails to guarantee access to legal counsel in a timely manner, and contains no provision for free legal assistance to the defendant. The LCP permits incommunicado detention for up to 60 days, but in many cases, this limit is not respected, particularly in the pre-trial phase. The authorities often do not inform individuals of the crime of which they are accused, or the evidence supporting the accusation. An accused person can wait excessive periods of time before trial, where it is often not possible to examine witnesses or evidence and present a legal defence, not least because of a presumption of guilt and shifting charges. In any case, judges routinely ignore, and are even ignorant of, the provisions of the Law of Criminal Procedure. In addition, the LCP grants the prosecutor the right to issue arrest warrants and prolong pretrial detention for up to six months without any judicial review. The LCP does not make statements obtained under duress inadmissible in court, or protect a defendant's right not to incriminate themselves.

As a rule, trials are held in secret and the suspect is denied legal assistance and representation during court hearings. The appeal process takes the form of a review in secret exchanges between judges of the trial court and the courts of appeal with no direct involvement of the defendant. Previous court rulings do not bind Saudi judges, and there is little evidence to suggest that judges seek to apply consistency in sentencing for similar crimes.

In addition, Saudi Arabia does not have a criminal code and Sharia law (Islamic law) is the basis of the criminal system. This gives unlimited powers to judges to decide what constitutes a crime under the Shari'a law. The wahabist interpretation of the Shari'a law is the cornerstone of the Saudi legal system. Sharia law is not based on precedent and can result in widely divergent rulings. Judges can base their decisions on any of the four Sunni schools of jurisprudence and usually follow the Hanbali school. Accordingly, citizens, residents, and visitors have no means of knowing with any precision what acts constitute a criminal offence. This gives wide authority to the government to detain those it perceives to be opponents or threats.

Furthermore, the independence of the judiciary, which is in principle recognised by the Basic Law of Saudi Arabia – a constitution-like charter – is further undermined by powers vested in the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the entire process of arrest and detention and for making the decision as to whether a detainee is released, sent to trial or detained indefinitely without trial. For example, the judicial authorities exercise little control over pre-trial detention, and the security forces have extensive powers to detain suspects, and deny them the most basic rights of prisoners with impunity. Places of detention are often intelligence services centres that are beyond the control of the judicial authority. In sum, the judiciary is subordinate to the authority of the executive organs, in particular the Minister of Justice, Minister of the Interior and regional governors, with the King as arbiter.

5 Alkarama cases of arbitrary detention in Saudi Arabia

Since 2004, Alkarama has raised a sample of approximately 100 cases with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) of political prisoners – a number which continues to grow. We have received written Opinions from WGAD for 39 individual cases thus far (the others have not yet been considered) – all Opinions have found the detention of the individual to be arbitrary and contrary to international human rights obligations.

Despite the UN WGAD finding that the detention of these political prisoners to be arbitrary and officially requesting the Saudi Government to take the necessary steps to remedy their situation and bring it into conformity with the standards and principles set forth in the Universal Declaration Human Rights, in nearly all cases no steps have been taken by the Saudi authorities to respect their human rights obligations.

These individuals remain detained – with no prospects of a trial or release date – many for their beliefs and actions as human rights defenders.

We are able to provide further information on any of the cases mentioned above, or others, upon request.

6 European Union (EU) Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders

We also refer to the European Union (EU) Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (revised in December 2008). Support for human rights defenders is a long-established element of the EU's human rights external relations policy – including with third countries. The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide practical suggestions for enhancing EU action on this issue, specifically referring to the important role of EU missions given they are the primary interface between the EU and its member states and human rights defenders on the ground.

We respectfully request therefore that in the upcoming 2011 EU-GCC hearing that the situation of human rights defenders is specifically included in the political dialogues (as per paragraph 12, bullet point 2 of the Guidelines). Specifically, we request the Saudi authorities are reminded of their obligation to implement effective measures to protect human rights defenders, that EU embassies have free access to visit human rights defenders who are detained and to permit EU Embassies to observe any court proceedings involving human rights defenders (as per paragraph 12, bullet points 2 and 3 of the Guidelines);

Finally, we respectfully request that the following cases of human rights defenders are raised with the Saudi authorities (please also see Annex A):

1. Dr Khaled Suleyman Al-Omeir;
2. Mr Mohamed Abdulallah Al-Uteibi
3. Mr Saad Ben Zair (referred to above);
4. Mr Walid Lamri;
5. Mr Ali Khassif Said Al-Qarni;
6. Mr Abdullah Majed Sayah Al-Nuaimy;
7. Mr Abdelwahab Mohamed Abdurahmane Al-Humaikani;
8. Mr Suleyman Al-Reshoudi (referred to above).

These cases were submitted by Alkarama to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in February 2010, when this office called for cases of reprisals against human rights defenders who had cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (within the scope of the Human Rights Council Resolution 12/1). Alkarama has submitted all of these cases to the relevant UN human rights mechanisms.

7 Recommendations of changes needed to end the systematic practice of arbitrary detention in Saudi Arabia

In light of the above information, and in order to bring itself into conformity with international human rights law, Alkarama recommends the European Parliament urges the Saudi authorities to:

- (1) End the practice of arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detentions without trial;
- (2) Release all prisoners of conscience and any detainees charged without recognisable criminal offence;
- (3) Ensure the right of any prosecuted person to be entitled to a fair trial according to international standards and especially article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which provides:
 - The right to be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law.
 - The right to challenge the evidence against oneself.
 - The right of defence.
- (4) Adopt institutional reforms relevant to the Ministry of Justice in particular, in order to limit the powers of the Ministry of Interior; and
- (5) Take all necessary steps to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, devoting particular attention to the principle of tenures of judges.

8 Annex A – Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabian cases submitted by Alkarama to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of reprisals against human rights defenders who had cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (within the scope of the Human Rights Council Resolution 12/1) (as at February 2010).

NAME	HUMAN RIGHTS WORK	REPRISAL SUFFERED IN SAUDI ARABIA
Dr Khaled Suleyman AL-OMEIR	<p>Outspoken about political situation in the region.</p> <p>Organised a peaceful protest in January 2009 against Israeli actions in Gaza during the IDF Operation Cast Iron (Dec. 2008- Jan. 2009);</p> <p>Accused of providing information on torture and ill-treatment in the prison where he is detained to Alkarama, to submit to UN human rights mechanisms in November 2009.</p>	<p>Arrested a first time on 25 April 2005 after giving an interview to Al-Jazeera about the political situation in the region. Detained incommunicado for six months at Al Aicha prison where he suffered ill-treatment. Released without any legal procedure.</p> <p>Was arrested on 2 January 2009.</p> <p>Put in solitary confinement in November 2009 because of suspicion by prison authorities that he leaked photos of injuries caused by torture in prison (in November 2009). Alkarama also fears he may be at risk of torture.</p>
Mr Mohamed Abdulallah AL-UTEIBI	<p>Organised a peaceful protest in January 2009 against Israeli actions in Gaza during the IDF Operation Cast Iron (Dec. 2008- Jan. 2009); publicly denounced the conditions of detention of political prisoners in the country.</p>	<p>Was initially arrested on 2 January 2009, was detained more than two months incommunicado and in solitary confinement. Presented to General-Prosecutor in June 2009, who ordered his release. This order was opposed by the Ministry of Interior, and he remains detained to date.</p>
Mr Saad BEN ZAIR (Saudi lawyer)	<p>Provided information to Alkarama about his father's arrest (Mr Said Ben Zair, a reformist), as well as that of others being arbitrarily detained (as a lawyer, he had access to prisons), for Alkarama to submit to UN human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p>Was initially arrested in 2002 and detained without trial for 3 years, and then again from 19 June 2006 for many months in secret before being released. Was then re-arrested on 10 April 2007 and is detained arbitrarily to date. This detention is most probably due to his human rights work including collaboration with Alkarama, who submitted information he provided about cases of arbitrary detention to the UN Special Procedures.</p>
Mr Walid LAMRI	<p>Attended human rights workshop organised by Alkarama in Doha in March 2006. Provided us with many cases of human rights violations and family testimony for Alkarama to submit to the Special Procedures, notably on arbitrary detention and on conditions in prisons in Saudi Arabia.</p>	<p>Arrested on 27 April 2007, and detained incommunicado for over 9 months. Now detained in solitary confinement, without charge or trial. He was arrested as he was returning from a business trip during which he met with families of victims of arbitrary detention who provided information on cases of torture and arbitrary arrests, and conditions of their relatives in detention. This information was intended to be communicated to the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>

Mr Ali Khassif Said AL-QARNI	Attended human rights workshop organised by Alkarama in Doha in March 2006. Provided us with many cases of human rights violations and family testimonies for Alkarama to submit to the Special Procedures, especially WGAD, from Saudi Arabia.	Arrested 5 December 2007. Held incommunicado for several weeks. Continues to be detained arbitrarily to date. He was never given a reason for his arrest, and according to our information has only been questioned about his human rights work.
Mr Abdullah Majed Sayah AL-NUAIMY (Bahraini national)	Provided information to Alkarama to submit to the UN human rights mechanisms regarding former Guantanamo detainees.	Was arrested at the border crossing between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia on 29 October 2008 and disappeared. Is currently arbitrarily detained at Dammam Prison (he was not given a reason for his arrest or presented with an arrest warrant at the time of his arrest). This detention is most probably due to his human rights work including collaboration with Alkarama, who submitted information he provided about cases to the UN Special Procedures.
Mr Abdelwahab Mohamed Abdurahmane AL HUMAIKANI (Yemeni national)	Was a representative of Alkarama and provided information to Alkarama about human rights violations in the region, particularly arbitrary detentions in Saudi Arabia. Also attended the 62 nd session of the Human Rights Commission in April 2006.	Was arrested on 19 December 2006 while on pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Released on 27 December 2006 without being charged or undergoing any legal proceedings. This detention was most probably due to his human rights work including collaboration with Alkarama, who submitted information he provided to the UN Special Procedures.
Mr Suleyman Saleh Al-RESHOUDI, (currently aged 75 years old – Saudi lawyer)	Provided Alkarama with information about arbitrary detention in Saudi Arabia, intended to be submitted to UN human rights mechanisms, notably the SP.	Was arrested on 2 February 2007 with a group of 8 others, and detained in secret for over 4 months. Was detained in house arrest for some time, and was transferred to Riyadh Prison on 13 January 2010, where he is detained to date. This detention is most probably due in part to his human rights work including collaboration with Alkarama, who submitted information he provided about cases of arbitrary detention to the UN Special Procedures.

9 Annex B – Alkarama case profiles of selected cases

Please find below a short summary of each of the cases presented as examples above:

1. Mr Saad Ben Zair
2. Dr Said Ben Zair
3. Mr Suleyman Saleh Al-Reshoudi
4. Mr Abdul Hakim Gellani
5. Mr Abdullah Zuhir