



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT ALKARAMA

Alkarama is a non-governmental human rights organisation established in 2004 to assist all those in the Arab world subjected to or at risk of extrajudicial execution, enforced disappearance, torture, and arbitrary detention. Acting as a bridge between individual victims and international human rights mechanisms, Alkarama works towards an Arab world where all individuals live in freedom and dignity, and are protected by the rule of law. In Arabic, Alkarama means dignity.

Assisting victims of human rights violations

Alkarama brings pro bono legal assistance to victims of the most serious human rights violations, without any discrimination. The organisation focuses its efforts on violations of the right to life, human dignity, physical integrity and freedoms such as, [extrajudicial executions](#), [enforced disappearances](#), [torture](#), and [arbitrary detention](#).

Using the international human rights mechanisms and working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)), we document individual cases of violations through direct contact with the victims, their families or lawyers, and submit complaints on their behalf to the United Nations (UN) Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies, asking them to intervene with the State in question to put an end to these violations.

Alkarama also gives a voice to the victims or their families by sharing their stories, as well as the recommendations issued by the various UN mechanisms on their cases, both on our website and through our social media channels. We also use the media, lobbying, advocacy campaigns, and collaboration with other NGOs and civil society to ensure the protection of victims.

Advocate for reforms to respect and protect human rights in all Arab countries

Based on our expertise on the Arab world and the individual cases Alkarama documents, we prepare in-depth reports on the human rights situation in each of the 20 countries we cover. These can be public reports, submissions to the Treaty Bodies – such as the Committee against Torture ([CAT](#)), the Human Rights Committee ([HRCtee](#)), and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances ([CED](#)) – ahead of a country's review, or contributions to the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review ([UPR](#)) that takes place every four to five years. We also work with local civil society to participate in the reviews of National Human Rights Institutions in the Arab region by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions ([GANHRI](#)).

On the basis of information submitted to them, all of these mechanisms issue recommendations aimed at improving the human rights situation in a given country, which can in turn be used by the local civil society to lobby for their implementation.

Raising awareness on human rights in the Arab world

Alkarama also brings media attention to the cases and situations it covers, helping victims to have their voices heard and shedding light on the human rights situation of a country, through press releases as well as public reports and analyses published in various media.

FORWARD

2025 — Seeking Accountability Amid Persistent Injustice

Across the Arab world, violations of fundamental rights persist and deepen. From the Maghreb to the Mashreq, along the Nile and across the Gulf, authorities continue to tighten restrictions, suppress dissent and punish those who dare to break the silence and expose injustice. Voices are stifled, freedoms curtailed and too often, impunity prevails. Yet behind every statistic lie human lives shattered, disrupted and waiting to be heard.

In this environment of repression, Alkarama has continued to stand with victims and their families in their quest for truth, justice and dignity. Responding to countless calls for help, Alkarama has pursued its mission with perseverance, working alongside those who refuse to surrender to silence. The journey has not been without obstacles; yet the determination that has guided Alkarama from its first day has remained unwavering.

Throughout the year, Alkarama and its devoted team have carried out their

work across the Arab world to document violations, denounce abuses, seek accountability and promote respect for human rights. Drawing on its recognised expertise, Alkarama has contributed to United Nations procedures, ensuring that the voices of victims are heard and that facts are placed before the relevant mechanisms with rigour and credibility.

This struggle, however, has not been without cost. Alkarama itself has been confronted with reprisals. Yet these challenges have not weakened its resolve. On the contrary, they have strengthened it, confirming both the legitimacy of its work and the necessity of its mission.

As long as victims continue to seek justice, Alkarama will remain at their side.

Guided by dignity and sustained by perseverance, it will continue to bring light where darkness seeks to prevail faithful to its mandate since its founding in 2004, steadfast in its values and unwavering in its belief that human rights must be defended, without compromise.

THE GULF

Amidst prevailing security narratives, repressive legislation and persistent impunity in the Gulf [region](#), Alkarama has steadfastly pursued its mission to defend victims of human rights abuses by filing individual complaints, contributing its expertise to international periodic reviews and conducting targeted advocacy to promote accountability and protect fundamental rights. In [Kuwait](#), measures introduced under the guise of national security have increasingly restricted public freedoms, contributing to a gradual but significant erosion of civil liberties.

Similarly, in [Oman](#), freedom of expression and peaceful assembly remain heavily curtailed, further exacerbated by repressive legislation and the arbitrary enforcement of security-oriented laws.

In the United Arab Emirates ([UAE](#)),

documented cases of arbitrary detention targeting individuals exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have brought to the attention of United Nations (UN) mechanisms the systematic restriction of civil and political rights.

In [Saudi Arabia](#), authorities have followed similar patterns, curbing dissent through laws undermining core rights, arbitrary detention and measures justified under the guise of national security, reflecting trends observed across the Gulf region. Alkarama has meticulously reported these violations and contributed to international bodies.

Finally, in [Yemen](#), where the ongoing conflict intensifies human rights violations and entrenches impunity, Alkarama maintained its efforts to address serious abuses and promote the protection of human rights.

Public freedoms: right of association, peaceful assembly, expression and media, human rights defenders

This year, Alkarama has observed that measures justified under security narratives pose serious and tangible risks to the exercise of individual and public freedoms.

In Kuwait, authorities have introduced mandatory genetic and biometric identification for citizens, formalised through Ministerial Decision which Alkarama [has emphasised](#) amounts to arbitrary state interference and limits access to essential services such as banking, healthcare and public administration for individuals who do not comply.

The case of former MP [Shuaib Al-Muwaizri](#), who was denied re-entry to Kuwait after refusing biometric registration, illustrates the practical impact of these measures on freedom of movement, privacy and equal treatment. Alkarama has repeatedly pointed out these developments as inconsistent with Kuwait's international human rights obligations protecting privacy, personal liberty and fundamental public freedoms.

On 14 April 2025, Alkarama highlighted the negative impact of security-driven counter-terrorism measures on human

rights and public freedoms. In its [submission](#) to the UN Secretary-General's annual report on terrorism and human rights, Alkarama drew attention to the misuse of broad and vague anti-terrorism laws to criminalise peaceful activism, suppress dissent and undermine fair trial guarantees. Many of these concerns were directly reflected in the report, which called for precise definitions of terrorism and full compliance of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights and humanitarian law.

The repression of public freedom was also stressed in Yemen, where journalists and human rights defenders remain subjected to pressure, threats and acts of violence.

On 3 May 2025, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, Alkarama [expressed great concern](#) over the ongoing erosion of press freedom in Yemen, in both Houthi- and government-controlled areas. In a country torn apart by conflict, where journalists are often the only source of information reaching the outside world, Alkarama denounced the systematic suppression of free expression and the persistent impunity of perpetrators, urging respect for fundamental public freedoms and judicial reforms to protect journalists and human rights defenders.

In the UAE, the severe restrictions

imposed on public freedoms continue to undermine the exercise of fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression and the protection of human rights defenders. Independent voices, journalists and political dissidents are routinely silenced through vaguely worded national security and cybercrime laws, which are used to criminalise peaceful criticism of state policies.

The case of Yemeni businessman Mr. Abdullah Abdelwahab, sentenced to [fifteen years in prison](#) solely over Facebook posts he had published earlier, criticising Emirati airstrikes in Yemen, exemplifies this pattern of repression. On 11 March 2025, Alkarama has [submitted](#) his case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ([WGAD](#)), denouncing his arbitrary arrest on 19 October 2022 in Sharjah, his incommunicado detention at Al-Sadr prison in Abu Dhabi and the absence of due process throughout his trial.

Alkarama [has regularly drawn attention](#) to similar cases, including the imposition of life sentences on prisoners of conscience and [political opponents](#), highlighting the instrumentalisation of the judiciary to suppress dissent and the absence of judicial independence. Through its monitoring and advocacy, Alkarama has emphasised how such practices contribute to the systematic erosion of

public freedoms in the UAE, in breach of international obligations protecting freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

Right to liberty and security of persons: enforced disappearances, summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention

In Oman, in July 2025 and in the context of [the country's 4th Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) cycle, Alkarama submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Council ([HRC](#)) raising its concerns regarding the right to liberty and security of persons. In its [written contribution](#), Alkarama documented on the arbitrary arrest and prosecution of journalists, activists and citizens for the exercise of their rights, highlighting the operation of a legal and judicial framework lacking independence and due process guarantees. The ongoing harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and limited cooperation by the authorities with international human rights mechanisms was also denounced.

In Saudi Arabia, Alkarama reported on serious violations of the right to liberty and security of persons, including summary executions, arbitrary detention and judicial harassment.

On [8 April 2025](#), the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights

Defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor, [expressed concern](#) over the ongoing detention of Saudi human rights activist and co-founder of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association ([ACPRA](#)), Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Bajadi, despite the official completion of his previous sentence in 2023.

Alkarama had initially [submitted](#) his case to the UN Special procedures, highlighting the repeated arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention he has faced as part of a broader crackdown on human rights defenders in the Kingdom.

Mr. Al-Bajadi's case is emblematic of the pattern of indefinite arbitrary detention in the country. He is currently subject to [a new judicial process](#) initiated two years after completing his sentence, raising serious concerns among UN experts regarding the lack of procedural safeguards and the risk of arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

The arbitrary use of the death penalty, including in cases involving the exercise of fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, further exemplifies these ongoing violations of the right to life and liberty.

In June 2023, Alkarama [strongly condemned](#) the execution of journalist Mr. Turki Al-Jasser, seven years after his arrest and enforced disappearance. Following his detention, Alkarama

alerted UN mechanisms, including [the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions](#), highlighting that the vague charges against him i.e., alleged treason, collaboration with foreign entities and terrorism financing were in fact used to silence his peaceful online expression.

Once again, this year, the ongoing violations of fundamental freedoms have led Alkarama to pay particular attention to Saudi Arabia, where repression and other serious abuses remain a source of deep concern.

FOCUS ON KSA

HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CROSSROADS OF FREEDOM AND CONTROL

While the Kingdom sought to enhance its international image particularly through major sporting events such as the World Cup its public relations efforts could not obscure serious and ongoing infringements of fundamental rights.

In this context, Alkarama [filed a complaint](#) with the United Nations (UN) and FIFA to challenge the awarding of the 2034 World Cup to Saudi Arabia. It emphasised that the process had been conducted in an opaque and expedited manner, without an independent assessment of human rights risks. Its advocacy highlighted persistent violations in the Kingdom, including repression of dissent, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and the working conditions of migrant labourers, which FIFA should have identified. FIFA was further reminded that, as the organiser of international events, it bears direct responsibility in



Mohammed bin Salman (right) and **Gianni Infantino** (left) at Al Bayt Stadium, Doha, Qatar. 20 November 2022 – © Associated Press.

the realm of human rights and must conduct due diligence, including transparent consultations and independent risk assessments regarding Saudi Arabia's candidacy.

Following its established practice since its founding, Alkarama continued to advocate for individuals arbitrarily detained, submitting their cases to UN mechanisms in pursuit of their release.

On 5 March 2025, it [brought the case](#) of Mr. Suleiman Al Duwaish, a Saudi religious figure arrested in April 2016 by the personal guard of the Crown Prince following the publication of critical messages, before the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ([WGAD](#)). According to testimonies from fellow detainees, he was presented to the Crown Prince, beaten and subsequently held at Al Hayr Prison, in the "Mabahith" section, with no news reaching his family.

Throughout the year, Alkarama's tireless efforts and meticulous documentation led to significant outcomes before UN Special Procedures. Notably, on 30 May 2025, the WGAD in its [Opinion No. 37/2025](#) officially [recognised](#) the arbitrary detention of Mr. Bassam Al Jalladi, a Yemeni national arrested in May 2019 by Yemeni authorities under alleged terrorist affiliation and later transferred to Saudi Arabia without transparent procedures.

On 1 April 2025, the WGAD in its [Opinion No. 1/2025](#) [acknowledged](#) the arbitrary nature of the detention of Mr. Mohsen Saleh Nasser Al Awlaqi, a Yemeni national arrested in May 2021 in Riyadh over social media posts and his alleged support for a controversial religious group, without a warrant or official justification.

Finally, on 18 July 2025, the detention of Mr. Mohammed Al Wadaei, a Yemeni national arrested on 19 October 2022 due to his criticisms of the regime, without a warrant or formal notification of charges was similarly [characterised](#) as arbitrary by the WGAD in its [Opinion No. 31/2025](#).

All of these individuals were denied legal representation, subjected to prolonged detention without fair trial and placed in solitary confinement. In each of its Opinions, the Working Group recommended their immediate release, the payment of reparations and the initiation of independent investigations.

Unfortunately, Alkarama's work remains constrained by the authorities' ongoing failure to act on UN decisions and their limited –if not absent– engagement with human rights mechanisms.

Independent expert Ms. Claudia Mahler, mandated to monitor the enjoyment of all human rights by older

persons, [regretted](#) that she had not been permitted to visit Mr. Safar ben Abdelrahman Al Hawali, a prominent Saudi academic and religious scholar and Mr. Salman ben Fahed Alodah, an academic and human rights defender.

Mr. Safar Al Hawali was arrested in July 2018 following the publication of his book criticising the authorities. His detention was [recognised](#) as arbitrary by the UN WGAD, in an [Opinion No. 26/2023](#) adopted in 2023. Concurrently, his case was [submitted](#) to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which, in [May 2024](#), [condemned](#) his prolonged isolation and the inhumane conditions of his detention, urging his release, and at least, urgent measures adapted to his health needs.

Regarding Mr. Salman ben Fahed Alodah, who was arrested in September 2017 following social media posts, the WGAD [concluded](#) in its [Opinion No. 56/2023](#) that his detention was arbitrary, noting that the Saudi authorities had failed to provide any lawful justification under counter-terrorism and cyber-crime legislation. The UN independent experts emphasised his pre-trial detention exceeding four years, alongside documented instances of torture and denial of medical care. The WGAD subsequently called for his immediate release, appropriate

reparation, an independent investigation and accountability for those responsible. His case was also [submitted](#) to the CRPD in January 2021, urging urgent measures to safeguard both him and his family.

Over the past year, Alkarama's tireless struggle against the authorities' persistent refusal to cooperate and implement UN decisions was, at moments, quietly rewarded by the belated release of detainees it had supported.

Among them Mr. [Abdulaziz Al Shubaily](#), a human rights activist and member of ACPRA; Mr. [Khaled Alodah](#), an academic; Mr. [Mohammad Al Qahtani](#), an academic; and Mr. [Issa Al Nukhaifi](#), a lawyer, each detained solely for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights of expression, who were released.

These outcomes, achieved after several years of arbitrary detention and through Alkarama's sustained advocacy from the very outset, reflect the quiet but tangible impact of persistent and principled engagement. They are a strong reminder that even in the most constrained environments, steadfast dedication can gradually open the space for justice and human dignity.

THE MAGHREB

Over the past year, Alkarama has continued its documentation, monitoring and advocacy work in response to the persistent and serious human rights violations across the **Maghreb**, striving to ensure the effective implementation of international commitments.

In **Algeria**, the erosion of civic space and the rule of law has deepened, reflected in widespread arbitrary detentions, judicial harassment and the persistent impunity enjoyed by perpetrators. Human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers continue to face systematic repression within a climate of corruption and the criminalisation of dissent.

The situation in **Tunisia** has further deteriorated, with an increasingly authoritarian drift leading to a sweeping judicial and political crackdown on opposition figures and independent magistrates. Alkarama noted with great concern that arbitrary arrests and

prolonged detentions have become common practice, undermining fundamental guarantees of due process and judicial independence.

In **Morocco**, public freedoms notably freedom of expression and association remain under severe restriction. Throughout the year, individual complaints were submitted on behalf of peaceful activists and human rights defenders facing imprisonment as the judiciary is increasingly used as a tool to silence dissent and discourage civic engagement.

In **Mauritania**, persistent concerns over violations of public freedoms and the right to life, liberty and security of persons have prompted Alkarama to maintain close monitoring and engage with United Nations (UN) mechanisms to urge compliance with international obligations.

Finally, the situation in **Libya** remains alarming, marked by enforced

disappearances, torture and arbitrary detentions amid the collapse of state institutions. Alkarama highlighted the persistence of widespread impunity and the urgent need for accountability and coordinated international action to restore the rule of law.

Public freedoms: right of association, peaceful assembly, expression and media, human rights defenders

This year in Morocco, public freedoms, particularly freedom of expression and association, remain severely restricted.

The case of activist Ms. Saida El Alami, activist, [submitted](#) by Alkarama to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on 25 April 2024, illustrates how any critical dissent is silenced through arbitrary arrests and unfounded charges. Arrested for having peacefully expressed critical views online, she was charged for several offenses, including “insulting public officials” and “undermining state institutions.”

The situation in Tunisia remained equally concerning, as Alkarama denounced a profound deterioration of public freedoms since 2021. The authorities have pursued politically motivated prosecutions against opponents, journalists and human rights defenders, in proceedings

marred by executive interference, lack of fairness and severe restrictions on the right to defence.

On 27 February 2025, Alkarama [brought](#) the case of Mr. Nouredine Bhiri, former Minister of Justice, to the UN WGAD. Arbitrarily detained since February 2024 on manifestly unfounded charges, his case highlights the political motivation behind his detention and the misuse of the judicial system to suppress opposition.

Meanwhile, the repression of civil society has intensified : harassment of human rights defenders, intimidation of NGOs, the abusive use of counter-terrorism legislation to criminalise critical expression, mounting pressure on the media and increasing constraints on freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

Alkarama has also highlighted [the dire prison conditions](#) in Tunisia, including isolation, restricted visits and limited access to medical care for political detainees.

In this context, Alkarama brought attention to the case of Mr. [Rached Ghannouchi](#), leader of Ennahda and President of Parliament, whose situation was submitted to the UN WGAD on 5 December 2023. He was initially prosecuted and sentenced for “glorifying terrorism,” arrested without a public warrant, denied contact with

his lawyers for 48 hours and held at Mornaguia prison. While already in detention, he faced several additional charges, which have been used to justify his indefinite imprisonment.

The political instrumentalisation of the judicial system has reached magistrates as well. Notably, judge Bechir Akremi's case, [submitted](#) by Alkarama to the WGAD, was recognised as arbitrary in [Opinion No. 2/2025](#) on 1st April 2025, illustrating the deliberate use of judicial reprisals to undermine judicial independence and the rule of law.

Right to life, liberty and security of persons: enforced disappearances, summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention

In Morocco, Alkarama has monitored the case of lawyer Mohamed Ziane, former Minister of Human Rights, former President of the Rabat Bar Association and founder of the Moroccan Liberal Party. Arrested in the course of 2022 and sentenced on multiple politically motivated charges, his case was submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) on 24 February 2024, which [urged](#) Morocco to adopt urgent interim measures to protect his rights. Subsequently, Alkarama [referred](#) his case to the UN WGAD on 14 May 2024, seeking formal recognition of the arbitrary nature of his detention.

A steadfast advocate for justice and freedom of expression, Mr. Ziane has long embodied the struggle for human dignity and the rule of law in Morocco. His continued detention and the reprisals he faces illustrate the persistence of repressive practices against dissenting voices. Standing firmly by his side in this rightful struggle, Alkarama [continues](#) to advocate for his release, denounce the abuses he endures and ensure that his case remains at the forefront of international attention.

In June 2025, Alkarama contributed to preparing Morocco's upcoming review by the CCPR, [submitting](#) a comprehensive report that not only outlined its primary concerns and documented persistent violations through concrete cases, but also issued targeted recommendations to address these abuses.

Similarly in Libya, ongoing enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions persist in complete impunity.

On 18 June 2025, Alkarama [issued an urgent appeal](#) concerning five Syrian citizens who disappeared while detained in Benghazi following their arbitrary arrest after peacefully expressing joy at Bashar Al Assad's departure. Before their sudden disappearance, their case had been [submitted](#) to the UN WGAD on

18 February 2025, highlighting that their deprivation of liberty resulted directly from the exercise of fundamental rights, including freedom of opinion and peaceful assembly.

This troubling pattern extends beyond adults, affecting even the most vulnerable. Throughout 2025, Alkarama referred multiple cases to the UN WGEID involving persons who went missing as minors, including Mr. [Wael Al Malki](#) and Mr. [Youssef Al Arfi](#), highlighting the particular severity of enforced disappearances affecting those abducted as children.

Meanwhile, several victims of enforced disappearance [resurfaced](#) from secret militia-run detention facilities. Among them was Mr. Mare Salih Mohammed Al Arifi, arrested in the course of 2024 in Tripoli by militia and whose fate remained unknown until Alkarama [submitted](#) his case to the UN WGEID in early June 2025.

These cases reflect a broader pattern of impunity among armed militias, many of which operate outside judicial oversight while continuing to carry out arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations. In June 2025, the UN [called](#) for urgent and independent investigations into acts of torture and the discovery of bodies at multiple detention sites, under the control of militia, highlighting both the systemic

nature of these abuses and the urgent need for [accountability](#). These concerns reaffirm what Alkarama has long cautioned, that militias must be held accountable and brought under genuine state control to halt the continuing cycle of violations.

In this regard, Alkarama reiterated these longstanding concerns in its report for the fourth cycle of Libya's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), [documenting](#) widespread and systemic human rights violations across the country. The report detailed cases of arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention without trial, torture and enforced disappearances, exposing the inefficiency of judicial institutions and the entrenched impunity of armed groups. It [called](#) for urgent reforms, including the cessation of arbitrary detention, the subordination of militias to state authority and the restoration of an independent judiciary, thereby providing a framework for actionable recommendations from UN Member States.

In line with these efforts, Alkarama [led a coalition](#) of NGOs calling on UN treaty bodies to resume periodic reviews of Libya, long suspended due to instability. Alkarama noted that it is essential to relaunch a comprehensive review of the human rights situation in the country in order to assess current conditions and encourage authorities to take measures to strengthen respect for fundamental

rights and freedoms.

Beyond individual interventions, Alkarama [condemned](#) the release of Osama Njeim, despite an ICC arrest warrant for war crimes, reaffirming its commitment to combating impunity.

Alongside these ongoing challenges, Alkarama's sustained advocacy [resulted](#) in the release of Libyan MP Hassan Salem and his brother Mohamed in October 2025, after years of arbitrary detention. Arbitrarily arrested by the RADAA militia and detained at Mitiga airbase, Salem's brothers' case was [submitted](#) to the UN WGAD in July 2024.

This significant progress not only underscores the tangible impact of Alkarama's work, but also reaffirms the crucial importance of continued engagement and international advocacy in advancing the protection of human rights.

FOCUS ON ALGERIA

UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ARBITRARY POWER: A CRITICAL STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS



1991 – Last picture of **Jamal Eddine Laâskari** with his only child before his imprisonment; he remains in detention to this day – © Alkarama Archives.

Throughout the year, Alkarama remained committed to defending human rights in Algeria by documenting serious and ongoing violations and engaging with international mechanisms to protect victims.

In early January 2025, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. [Mary Lawlor](#), [expressed](#) profound concern over arbitrary detention, judicial harassment, intimidation and the criminalisation of peaceful activism.

Her observations mirror Alkarama's [repeated](#) previous concerns that Algerian legislation—particularly Article 87bis of the Penal Code and the anti-terrorism law—has been systematically used to restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association. The arbitrary application of these repressive laws criminalises strictly

peaceful activities, revealing a legal framework designed to maintain tight control over critical voices and obstruct the work of human rights defenders. These preoccupations, brought by Alkarama to the attention of various UN Special Procedures, have, in previous years, prompted several mandate holders to send [allegation letters](#) to the Algerian government, requesting detailed information on the scope, implementation and compliance of several legislative texts and measures with human rights and international obligations.

Nevertheless, the systematic repression of dissent combined with Algeria's persistent refusal to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms has further entrenched a climate of impunity.

This climate of impunity is clearly illustrated by the case of [Djameledine Laskri](#), who has been detained for 34 years following a politically motivated conviction based solely on confessions extracted under torture after more than two months of incommunicado detention. Initially sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment, he was convicted in 1993 for allegedly assisting Hocine Abderrahim, president of the Islamic Workers' Union, executed with six other FIS members in August 1993 after a flagrantly unfair trial boycotted by defence lawyers. In 2014, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary

Detention (WGAD) [found his detention to be arbitrary](#) and called for his immediate release, a decision the Algerian authorities have never implemented.

Alkarama has continued to follow his case and, this year, [formally raised it](#) before the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) as part of its report on the persistent refusal of the Algerian authorities to cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms and to comply with their international obligations.

Years later, the faces may have changed, but the violations persist, sustained by corruption and complicity within institutions meant to guarantee justice and security.

On 26 August 2025, Alkarama [submitted](#) a complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) on behalf of Ms. Nawal Kara Bouslama, a Franco-Algerian businesswoman, to denounce serious and repeated violations of her fundamental rights in Algeria. These violations followed her refusal to pay a two-million-euro bribe linked to a real estate contract associated with the Ministry of Defence. She faced arbitrary suspension of contracts, freezing of assets, repeated threats and a medically documented attempted poisoning, without any investigation or protective measures by the Algerian authorities.

Alkarama's [submission](#) argued that these acts violate rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#)), including the rights to life, security and physical integrity, freedom of expression, professional activity and effective remedy. It was noted that these violations also constitute breaches of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which Algeria is a party.

Ultimately, the human rights landscape in Algeria is defined by a cycle in which the systematic repression of fundamental freedoms, combined with impunity for perpetrators, enables violations to persist and escalate. Algeria's lack of cooperation with international mechanisms demonstrates, in a clear and manifest way, the absence of genuine intent to end these practices, in direct contravention of its international obligations. Yet victims, supported by Alkarama, remain undeterred, relentlessly pursuing truth and accountability despite persistent obstacles.

THE MASHREQ

In the **Mashreq**, the persistence of regional conflicts and the absence of reliable institutional structures have left populations in a state of heightened vulnerability, where fundamental rights are regularly violated with impunity.

In **Iraq**, Alkarama has continued its ongoing efforts to shed light on cases of enforced disappearance and other serious violations, as a clear expression of support for the victims' families and solidarity with their pursuit of truth and justice.

In **Jordan**, restrictions on freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests and detention without trial continued throughout the year, reflecting a tightening political control and a steady erosion of fundamental freedoms that severely limits spaces for public expression and participation.

In **Lebanon**, public freedoms remained under threat due to the lack of meaningful reforms, while the limited implementation of existing legislation reduced the effectiveness of legal protection.

Throughout the year, Alkarama has consistently advocated for international accountability in **Palestine**, a land torn apart by an ongoing genocide, where civilians continue to endure relentless and systematic violence, grave violations of their fundamental rights and the widespread destruction of infrastructure amid a complete absence of effective protection. Meanwhile, Alkarama has closely followed developments in **Syria** as the country embarks on a fragile process of reconstruction following the departure of Bashar al-Assad and the end of major hostilities.

public freedoms: right of association, peaceful assembly, expression and media, human rights defenders

In Jordan, repression has taken a severe turn, with pervasive digital surveillance and security pretexts deployed to criminalise dissent. Alkarama has noted with concern that individuals accused of terrorism are subjected to military courts instead of civilian justice.

A striking example is the case of Mahmoud Al Etewi, [submitted](#) by Alkarama on 18 March 2025 to the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD). Arrested by the General Intelligence Services in Zarqa for visiting websites deemed non-compliant, Al Etewi endured weeks of incommunicado detention and was tried under the pretext of “promoting illegal content” highlighting the relentless crackdown on freedom of expression and civic space in the country.

The attempt to silence critics went beyond Jordan, reaching unprecedented brutality in Palestine. Throughout the year, Alkarama closely monitored the situation, amplifying the voices of a silenced media and persistently urging the international community to end impunity for crimes committed against journalists. The deliberate killing of journalist

Anas Al Sharif and his colleagues by the Israeli Occupation Army was [denounced](#) as an act clearly intended to silence witnesses and obstruct the documentation of violations—part of a broader pattern in which more than 220 journalists have been murdered in Gaza since October 2023.

On 25 August 2025, Alkarama further [condemned](#) the airstrike on the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, which killed dozens of civilians, including five journalists reporting on violations, describing it as a deliberate attempt to suppress truth and curtail press freedom and reiterating that targeting journalists constitutes a war crime and gravely undermines freedom of expression.

Right to life, liberty and security of persons: enforced disappearances, summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention

This year, in Lebanon, torture [remains](#) a widespread and largely unpunished practice, despite the ratification of the Convention against Torture (UNCAT), the adoption of the Anti-Torture Law and the recommendations issued by the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) more than 10 years ago. These recommendations followed the CAT’s investigation conducted after the exhaustive complaint submitted by Alkarama in 2008 under the Article 20

procedure of the Convention which provided contained well-founded indications that torture was being systematically practiced in Lebanon.

On 17 July 2025, Alkarama [submitted](#) its contribution to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) ahead of Lebanon's [fourth Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#), denouncing the continued use of torture, inhumane detention conditions and the trial of civilians before military courts. Concerns were raised over ongoing restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly and Lebanese authorities were called to implement genuine reforms ensuring accountability, judicial independence and protection of fundamental rights.

In Syria, even as the country attempts to rebuild following the departure of Bashar Al Assad, human rights violations continue unabated.

On 27 January 2025, a UN-mandated human rights investigation into the situation Syria [revealed](#) widespread, systematic use of arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances by the former regime. The report underscores that, even after years of conflict, those abuses persist across multiple forms of detention, creating deep-seated obstacles to accountability and justice.

The [arrest](#) of Emirati activist Jassem Al-Shamsi in Damascus and his transfer

to a secret detention facility without charges or judicial warrant serves as a recent illustration that arbitrary detention and the risk of ill-treatment persist. Alkarama has [expressed](#) serious concern over his fate, particularly given the risk of extradition to the United Arab Emirates, where he could face torture and has called on Syria to respect its obligations under the Convention against Torture, ensuring that Al-Shamsi is not returned to a country where he would be at risk of ill-treatment.

In Palestine, the right to life, liberty and security of person continues to be gravely violated, as civilians endure relentless attacks, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, and acts amounting to collective punishment, in what amounts to an ongoing genocide.

A UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry has now [unequivocally recognised](#) that Israel committed genocide in the Gaza Strip, concluding in its 16 September 2025 report that Israeli authorities carried out genocidal acts — including killing, causing serious harm, imposing inhumane conditions, and preventing births — with the “intent to destroy” the Palestinian group in Gaza.

Throughout 2025, the situation in Gaza has deteriorated into a humanitarian catastrophe where starvation has been openly used as [a tool of genocide](#).

Entire communities have been **deliberately deprived of food**, water and medical supplies, transforming famine into a weapon of war and a means of annihilation. Despite the clear evidence of this policy, some international actors **have chosen to deny** or downplay the extent of the crisis, further entrenching a culture of impunity.

No one has been spared from these violations. Children, in particular, have become the **primary victims** of indiscriminate bombardments, forced displacement and deprivation, their suffering emblematic of the destruction of the most basic human protections. Hospitals and medical staff have also been **systematically targeted**, with repeated strikes against healthcare facilities constituting a flagrant breach of international humanitarian law and a direct assault on the right to life and security.

Alkarama has continued to **denounce** these violations, documenting the deliberate killings, arbitrary detentions and torture of civilians by Israeli forces, as well as the widespread use of collective punishment that deprives the population of essential means of survival.

FOCUS ON IRAQ

PURSUIT OF TRUTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN IRAQ

For over a decade, Iraq has remained one of the countries most affected by the scourge of enforced disappearances, a practice that continues to cause profound suffering for thousands of families still searching for the truth.

Over the years, Alkarama has pursued its efforts to shed light on the disappeared engaging with United Nations (UN) mechanisms and supporting families in their quest for truth, it strives to shed light on over 200 enforced disappearances in Iraq, ensuring these crimes are not forgotten and that truth and justice prevail.

In this context, Alkarama has continued its cooperation with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) to ensure that cases of enforced disappearances are clarified.



Iraqi families demanding truth and justice for their missing loved ones in 2018 – © AFP.

However, within the framework of the procedure established by this mechanism, it has observed that the Iraqi State is not collaborating in good faith, which has led the Committee to call on the State to comply with its international obligations and to cooperate accordingly.

This year, Alkarama has [recalled](#) that the tragedy of enforced disappearances in Iraq extends far beyond national borders. Thousands of Iraqis who vanished during U.S.-led operations remain unaccounted for, leaving their families trapped in a long and painful pursuit for truth.

Among the many cases brought before the CED, the disappearance last year of Mr. Ayesha Al Harby, a Saudi national, is another illustration of the persistent denial of justice. Arrested and later disappeared while in detention, his case was urgently [submitted](#) by Alkarama to the Committee, which has since requested information from the authorities, so far without any response.

Other serious violations continue to persist despite the recommendations issued during Iraq's most recent periodic review by the UN Human Rights Committee ([CCPR](#)).

In March 2025, Alkarama [submitted](#) a follow-up report to contribute to the

implementation of those recommendations. The report highlights the authorities' continued failure to enact meaningful reforms, particularly regarding anti-terrorism legislation, the prohibition of torture and the administration of justice.

Alkarama [stressed](#) the vague provisions of the anti-terrorism law, which enable arbitrary detention and even death sentences without adequate safeguards following unfair trials. The report further documents the alarming number of individuals on death row, widespread torture and ill-treatment in detention centres, enforced disappearances and inhumane conditions, as well as the absence of independent inspections and reliance on confessions obtained under duress.

THE NILE

Throughout 2025, civil and political rights along the **Nile** were closely monitored in a context marked by repression, the silencing of dissenting voices and in Sudan outright violence and atrocities. In **Djibouti**, Alkarama's attention remained centered on the evolving landscape of fundamental freedoms and political liberties with scrutiny of the broader challenges affecting civic space.

In **Egypt**, Alkarama's attention focused on the shrinking space for public freedoms, exposing the repression of free expression, the criminalisation of

dissent and systematic violations of the right to life, liberty and security of persons. Documentation and advocacy sought to amplify the voices of those most at risk and to bring international scrutiny to these abuses.

In **Sudan**, vigilance was maintained amid a brutal conflict and a worsening humanitarian catastrophe. Mass killings, attacks on civilians, widespread displacement and obstruction of humanitarian aid were rigorously documented, highlighting the scale of suffering and the urgent need for protection and accountability.

Public freedoms: right of association, peaceful assembly, expression and media, human rights defenders

This year, Egypt underwent its [fourth](#) Universal Periodic Review (UPR), during which numerous states echoed longstanding concerns previously documented by Alkarama regarding the systematic repression of human rights defenders and the persistent repression of human rights defenders and public freedoms. Particularly, Alkarama has repeatedly highlighted how broad counter-terrorism legislation is [used to silence dissent](#) and curtail civil society, functioning more as a tool of intimidation than as a means of ensuring security.

In [January 2025](#), the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, [shared concerns](#) similar to those repeatedly raised by Alkarama, condemning the misuse of counter-terrorism laws to harass, intimidate and detain activists. She specifically highlighted the practice of prison rotations, which exacerbate the isolation and vulnerability of victims and specifically cited the case of Mr. [Ibrahim Metwally](#), a lawyer and human rights defender detained since 2017, which had been [submitted](#) to the UN by Alkarama. Her statement underscored the ongoing threats faced by defenders and the persistent erosion of civil and

political rights across the country.

Similar concerns were also echoed by numerous states during Egypt's [fourth UPR](#), which called on the it to adopt concrete measures to protect public freedoms and safeguard human rights defenders from reprisals.

Meanwhile the humanitarian crisis in Sudan has had a severe impact on journalists and media workers: numerous press outlets have been destroyed or looted, many journalists have been killed or forced into exile and the flow of reliable information has been disrupted.

Right to life, liberty, and security of persons: enforced disappearances, summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention

Sudan remains engulfed in a severe humanitarian and security crisis, with civilians exposed to killings, torture, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. The situation in regions such as [North Darfur](#) and [North Kordofan](#), marked by targeted attacks on civilians, summary executions and the widespread use of arbitrary detention by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), backed and armed by the United Arab Emirates, has drawn the concern of UN spokespersons throughout 2025. Alkarama has closely monitored these abuses, documented cases and

submitting complaints to UN Special Procedures, calling for urgent action to protect civilians, secure the release of those arbitrarily detained and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

Violations continued in Egypt, where state authorities have employed arbitrary detention under the guise of counter-terrorism, exposing detainees to inhumane prison conditions.

Alkarama [documented](#) the human tragedy in the Badr 3 Prison complex, where political detainees faced psychological collapse, suicide attempts and complete isolation from legal and family rights. Meanwhile, at Al-Wadi al-Jadid (New Valley) Prison, nicknamed the “Death Prison”, detainees launched open-ended hunger strikes in August 2025 protesting deprivation of water, food, medical care, hygiene, visits and legal access, conditions amounting to collective physical and psychological torture.

Alkarama’s work has tracked these violations closely, submitting complaints on behalf of victims, documenting systematic patterns of abuse rather than isolated incidents and calling for emergency investigations and remedies.

FOCUS ON EGYPT

SILENCED VOICES, SOLIDARITY ACTIONS: CONFRONTING REPRESSION IN EGYPT



Egyptian police disperse a march in solidarity with Gaza at a checkpoint on the Ismailia road. 13 June 2025 – © Mada.

Throughout 2025, Alkarama remained steadfast in its commitment to the protection of human rights defenders in Egypt, concentrating on the systematic repression of freedom of expression and peaceful activism. Alkarama's efforts encompassed comprehensive documentation, strategic engagement with international mechanisms and advocacy aimed at addressing the abusive application of counter-terrorism legislation, the criminalisation of dissent and the targeting of individuals involved in humanitarian or solidarity activities.

These broader interventions were complemented by the meticulous monitoring of individual cases, which vividly illustrate the human impact of systemic abuses.

Among numerous documented instances of arbitrary detention, the case of Mr. [Ibrahim Metwally](#), a lawyer and coordinator of the Association of Families of the Disappeared, is particularly telling. Detained since 2017, Mr. Metwally's prolonged and unjustified detention, along with the dire conditions he faces, was brought to the attention of United Nations (UN) mechanisms by Alkarama, highlighting persistent violations of fundamental rights.

In parallel, Alkarama [conducted](#) detailed investigations into prison conditions, including in the New Valley region, where detainees—many held solely for exercising their right to dissent—suffer from prolonged deprivation, inadequate medical care and continuous psychological pressure. Such conditions severely restrict the ability of detainees to exercise fundamental freedoms, including the rights to communication, assembly and protest.

Building on these findings, Alkarama [contributed](#) to the preparation of Egypt's [fourth](#) Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In collaboration with several international NGOs, Alkarama co-issued a joint statement emphasising the country's alarming human rights situation. The statement [denounced](#) the detention of over 60,000 political prisoners, called for an immediate end to unjust death sentences, advocated for the protection of torture victims in

detention centres, demanded the release of imprisoned women and underscored the safeguarding of civil, political, economic and social rights.

A particularly salient manifestation of repression observed this year concerns the targeting of individuals engaged in Gaza solidarity activities. Lawyers, activists and humanitarian workers were either prevented from entering Egypt or [arrested](#) solely for expressing support or providing aid to Gaza. These measures demonstrate the authorities' efforts to suppress peaceful expression and international solidarity, effectively extending domestic censorship beyond national borders.

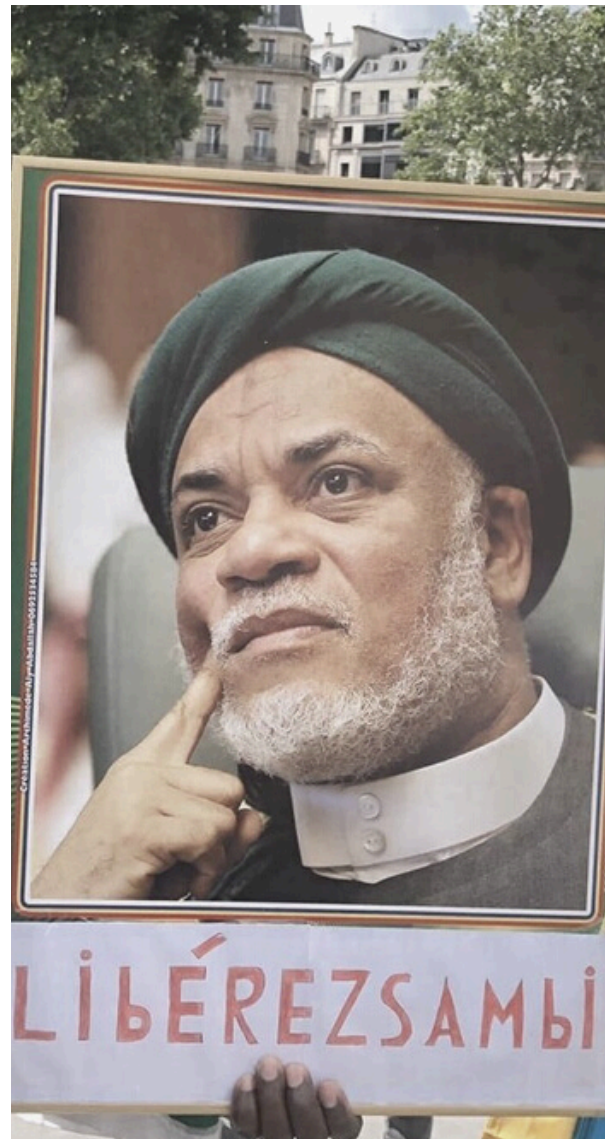
Alkarama also intervened to protect Egyptian citizens at risk of extradition from other countries, including [Malaysia](#) and [Nigeria](#), underscoring the potential persecution they would face upon return to Egypt due to their activism or expressions of solidarity.

FOCUS ON COMOROS

SEVEN YEARS OF INJUSTICE: ALKARAMA'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF FREEDOM FOR FORMER PRESIDENT AHMED SAMBI

In 2025, Alkarama has once again reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to defending the fundamental rights of former Comorian President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi, arbitrarily detained by his political rival, Mr. Azali Assoumani, since 2018. Despite repeated calls from United Nations (UN) mechanisms, Mr. Sambi remains deprived of his liberty under conditions amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment.

In June 2025, Alkarama [submitted](#) a communication to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ([WGAD](#)), raising concern over the deteriorating conditions of Mr. Sambi's detention and the authorities' continued defiance of international law. It denounced his prolonged isolation and lack of access to family or legal counsel, once again urging the full implementation of [WGAD Opinion No. 65/2018](#), which calls for his immediate release and compensation.



A banner at a protest in Paris calling for the release of President Mohamed Sambi, who has been arbitrarily detained since 18 May 2018.

This intervention follows years of sustained advocacy. In May 2018, shortly after Mr. Sambi's arrest on unfounded allegations of public disorder, Alkarama [referred](#) the case to the WGAD, documenting the political motivations behind his detention. In December 2018, the WGAD issued [Opinion No. 65/2018](#), [declaring](#) his detention arbitrary and urging the Comorian authorities to release him immediately and provide adequate reparation.

Despite the authorities' failure to implement this Opinion, Alkarama continued to press for accountability, submitting multiple follow-ups to the WGAD highlighting the lack of judicial oversight, denial of family contact and Mr Sambi's deteriorating health. In November 2022, following a trial widely condemned as politically motivated and unfair, Mr. Sambi was [sentenced](#) to life imprisonment. Alkarama strongly [condemned](#) this verdict, reiterating the binding nature of WGAD Opinion No. 65/2018 and the urgent need for his release.

In December 2024, ahead of a tense electoral period in Comoros, Alkarama raised alarm over Mr. Sambi's total isolation, describing it as an attack on his physical and mental integrity.

Through meticulous documentation, advocacy and engagement with international mechanisms, Alkarama

ensures that Mr. Ahmed Sambi's case remains a powerful symbol of the fight for justice and the protection of human rights in Comoros.

THEMATIC FOCUS

WHEN COUNTER-TERRORISM UNDERMINES FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

At the international level, the issue of counter-terrorism, marked by acute tensions between security imperatives and respect for human rights, has long been central to Alkarama's work.

Cases documented since its foundation, more than twenty years ago today, and brought before United Nations (UN) mechanisms have shown that the absence of a universal, clear and legally binding definition of "terrorism" has enabled many States to adopt broad and imprecise legal frameworks, which have in turn become a major source of serious human rights violations.

In this context, Alkarama submitted, this year, a substantive report in response to the [call for submissions](#) launched by the [UN Special Rapporteur](#) on the promotion and protection of human rights while



François Burgat appearing before the criminal court in Aix-en-Provence on alleged charges of "public glorification of terrorism." 24 April 2025 – © S. B.-P.

countering terrorism, intended to incorporate the perspective of civil society into its forthcoming thematic report to the Human Rights Council.

Drawing on more than twenty years of experience and on the detailed examination of individual cases documented across most Arab countries, the report identified recurrent and systemic patterns of abuse linked to the application of national counter-terrorism legislation. These include the criminalisation of peaceful dissent, restrictions on civil society, violations of the right to a fair trial, discriminatory practices targeting specific communities and the misuse of international cooperation mechanisms for repressive purposes.

These concerns are not confined to the Arab region but reflect a broader global trend. The report also referred to documented situations in Europe, where counter-terrorism measures have led to disproportionate restrictions on fundamental freedoms, serious human rights violations and the long-term stigmatisation of individuals or communities, often in the absence of effective judicial safeguards.

In France, for instance, Alkarama drew attention to the case of [political scientist](#) Mr. François Burgat, who was prosecuted for “glorification of terrorism” on the basis of a decontextualised excerpt from one of

his academic works, [illustrating](#) the risks posed by overly broad legislation in which the boundary between critical analysis and incitement to violence becomes dangerously blurred.

In light of these findings, Alkarama set out a series of legal recommendations and called for a narrowly defined concept of terrorism, limited to acts involving serious violence against persons and clearly excluding any conflation with the legitimate exercise of fundamental freedoms. It also emphasised the need for robust safeguards to protect humanitarian action, as well as the work of human rights defenders, journalists, academics and legal professionals.