



08 May 2026

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SUBJECT: Follow-up – Call for the implementation of UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention’s Opinions and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ interim measures

Excellency,

Alkarama is writing to follow-up on our correspondence dated 08 March 2024 (*Appendix 1*), which has remained unanswered to date. This request concerned the persistent non-implementation by the Kingdom's authorities of several Opinions issued by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), as well as the interim measures requested by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in various cases.

The continued detention of the individuals concerned by those decisions and listed in *Appendix 2*, notwithstanding the formal decisions of independent experts mandated by the Human Rights Council, places the Saudi Human Rights Commission (HRC) before statutory responsibilities from which it cannot exempt itself without stripping its own *raison d'être* of all substance. As an institution acting as a guarantor of equity and the rule of law, the HRC cannot remain passive in the face of such manifest violations without failing in its own legal commitments.

Indeed, your fundamental mission of protection, as established by Article 5.1 of your Statutes¹ requires you to ensure that relevant government agencies apply the regulations related to human rights. In this context, any refusal to intervene to end detentions recognised as

¹Article 5.1, Resolution No. 207 of the Council of Ministers, Human Rights Committee regulations, <https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/saudiarabia/HRC-regulation.html>



contrary to fundamental rights by UN independent experts constitutes a direct failure to fulfill this primary protective function of your Commission.

As the national institution duly seized of these cases, the HRC is statutorily bound, under Article 5.6², to investigate reported complaints and violations and to take the necessary legal measures. The lack of follow-up on our reports regarding situations of exceptional gravity—such as that of Salman Alodah, who remains detained, or Safar al-Hawali, whose state of health is critical (see *Appendix 2*)—renders the right to an effective remedy, of which you are the custodian, illusory.

Your specific mission to ensure the compliance of national practices with the Kingdom's international commitments, as provided for in Article 5.3³, mandates that you act for the implementation of international instruments. As the arbitrary nature of these detentions has been established by a UN body of independent experts, your inertia constitutes a derogation from your role as the guardian of good faith in the application of treaties to which Saudi Arabia is a party.

During the Kingdom's Universal Periodic Review on 22 January 2024, you stated before the international community that cooperation with UN mechanisms is one of the essential “pillars” of the Saudi national approach.

However, the silence maintained regarding our previous communication concerning UN decisions directly contradicts this solemn commitment. The effective implementation of these Opinions would offer the most concrete demonstration of the vitality of this “pillar.” Failing that, this absence of a response would only confirm the ineffectiveness of the Kingdom's internal remedy mechanisms.

As the primary national institution for human rights in the Kingdom, the HRC’s standing is fundamentally defined by its alignment with the Paris Principles. Compliance with these international standards requires that your Commission exercise the full range of statutory powers and independence that form the basis of its institutional legitimacy. It is now incumbent upon the HRC to demonstrate its effective autonomy by acting as the institutional safeguard it is mandated to be. By fully assuming this role as a guarantor of legality and a bridge between national practice and international obligations, your Commission will consolidate its credibility within the UN framework. Conversely, a lack of decisive action would undermine the very substance of your protective mandate.

Excellency, it is now up to the HRC to demonstrate its ability to assert itself in the face of the observed failures.

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem.



We request that you provide us with a response specifying the concrete measures your institution intends to adopt to urge the authorities to immediately execute the WGAD recommendations.

While awaiting your response, please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Rachid MESLI
Director ALKARAMA

List of Appendices :

Appendix 1 – Initial letter addressed to your Excellency in March 2024

Appendix 2 – List of Unimplemented UN WGAD Opinions (2007–2023) and UN CRPD's interim measures requests



APPENDIX 2

List of Unimplemented UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Opinions (2007–2023) and UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ interim measures requests

I. UN WGAD Opinions

1. Opinions issued in 2007

- a) Opinion No. [4/2007](#) concerning Mr. Faiz Abdelmoshen Al-Qaid and Mr. Khaled b. Mohamed Al- Rashed

Faiz Al-Qaid (42) was arrested while he was still a student at university and is still being detained solely for his activities as a human rights defender.

Khaled Rashed (64), a teacher, is being detained following his condemnation to 15 years imprisonment for having publicly criticised the policies of Saudi Arabia’s leaders.

- b) Opinion No. [27/2007](#) concerning Dr. Saud Mukhtar Al-Hashimi

Saud Al Hashimi (62), a medical doctor and an activist in a movement for constitutional reforms in Saudi Arabia is still being detained following a condemnation to 30 years imprisonment for alleged terrorism related charges.

2. Opinions issued in 2008

- c) Opinion No. [11/2008](#) concerning Mr. Amer Saïd b. Muhammad Al-Thaqfan Al-Qahtani

Amer Al Qahtani (57), a school teacher, is still being held in detention, even though he fully served his sentence in 2007 under the pretext that he “poses danger to security”, his influence on people around him and his continued advocacy of the “Takfiri” ideology.

3. Opinions issued in 2011

- d) Opinion No. [10/2011](#) concerning Mr. Bachr b. Fahd b. Al-Bachr

Bachr Al Bachr (52), a university professor, is being currently detained while the charges against him are still unknown.

- e) Opinion No. [11/2011](#) concerning Mr. Ali ben Mohamed Hamad Al Qahtani

Ali Al Qahtani (50), a businessman, is still being detained.

4. *Opinions issued in 2015*

- f) *Opinion No. [38/2015](#) concerning Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al Bajadi*

Mohamed Al-Bajadi (45), a human rights activist and co-founder of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association, remains in detention since his arrest in 2018.

5. *Opinions issued in 2017*

- g) *Opinion No. [10/2017](#) concerning Mr. Salim Abdullah Hussain Abu Abdullah*

Salim Abdullah (42), was forced to confess to crimes he did not commit and forced to sign a written confession he could not even read. While he was detained his current fate remains currently unknown.

6. *Opinions issued in 2022*

- h) *Opinion No. [30/2022](#) concerning Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Sadhan*

Abdulrahman Al-Sadhan (43) was condemned to 20 years in prison based on a compilation of tweets from satirical Twitter accounts that he was allegedly running and for supposedly funding terrorism or support and sympathy for a terrorist entity (ISIS).

- i) *Opinion No. [62/2022](#) concerning Mr. Hussain bin Abdullah bin Yousef Al-Sadiq*

Hussain Al Sadiq (51) was condemned to 15 years accused of being affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah which are supposedly defined by their affiliation to the Shiite sect.

- j) *Opinion No. [84/2022](#) concerning Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammed Farhana*

Abdulrahman Farhana (69), a Jordanian journalist, was condemned to a nine year in prison because of his support for the Palestinian resistance.

7. *Opinions issued in 2023*

- k) *Opinion No. [17/2023](#) concerning Mrs. Aida and Mr. Adel Al Ghamdi*

Aida Al Ghamdi (68) and Adel Al Ghamdi (28) were both imprisoned to respectively 14 and 5 years of imprisonment for supposedly terrorism related charges.

- l) *Opinion No. [26/2023](#) concerning Mr. Safar bin Abdulrahman al-Hawali*

Safar Al Hawali (72), professor, is currently being detained for his peaceful critic of the ruling leaders of Saudi Arabia.

m) *Opinion No. [56/2023](#) concerning Mr. Salman Fahed Alodah*

Salman Alodah (69), an islamic preacher, cleric and university professor, is being maintained in detention in connection with legal proceedings related to alleged terrorism charges.

8. *Opinion issued in 2025*

n) *Opinion No. [1/2025](#) concerning Mr. Mohsen Saleh Nasser Al-Awlaki*

Mohsen Al Awlaki (41), a Yemeni national, was condemned to 20 years in prison for alleged affiliation with a religious movement and for expressing beliefs deemed contrary to prevailing norms.

o) *Opinion No. [31/2025](#) concerning Mr. Mohammed Ali Hussein Al Wadaei*

Mohammed Al Wadaei (62), a Yemeni national, was sentenced to 19 years in prison for posts on his social media account under the pretext of terrorism-related charges.

p) *Opinion No. [37/2025](#) concerning Mr. Bassam Shukri Ahmed Mukhtar Al Jalladi*

Bassam Al Jalladi (36), a Yemeni national, was sentenced to 20 years under the pretext of terrorism.

II. **CRPD interim measures requests**

a) *Decision No. [84/2020](#) – Mr. Safar Al Hawali*

The CRPD requested interim measures on 6 November 2020 to protect Mr. Al Hawali from any risk of irreparable harm while the case was under consideration. Specifically, the Committee asked the State party to take urgent steps to safeguard his life, health, and physical and mental integrity during his detention, including ensuring access to appropriate medical care and necessary treatment in light of his serious health conditions.

b) *Decision No. [87/2021](#) – Mr. Salman Alodah*

The CRPD requested interim measures on 10 June 2021 from the State party to ensure the immediate protection of Mr. Alodah and specifically asked the State to guarantee that he had access to continuous and adequate medical care, including regular health monitoring by an independent medical body, in order to prevent any risk of irreparable harm to their health or well-being.