



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 August 2021]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **The trial of Palestinian detainees in Saudi Arabia violates the legal principles and calls for their release**

On Sunday, 8-8-2021, the Saudi Criminal Court issued its rulings against 24 Palestinian and Jordanian citizens, which ranged between acquittal and imprisonment for 22 years, subject to appeal after 40 days. Media sources indicated that "trials are still ongoing, as judgments are being taken in batches."

It is noteworthy that the sentencing sessions against Palestinian and Jordanian detainees in Saudi Arabia were set last week, after they were previously scheduled for next October, when many observers expected to issue reduced sentences or a general amnesty, but the sentences were shocking.

The Saudi security forces have carried out a secret campaign of arrests against a number of Palestinians residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since the beginning of February of 2019, estimated at 69 Palestinian and Jordanian citizens. and transferred them to a mock group trial after exposing them to grave violations and holding them for months without formal charges. Several complaints were monitored from the families of Palestinian people who said that their sons and relatives have been detained in either detention centers or collective prisons for several months. Some of them were subjected to physical and psychological torture, some of which were subsequently transferred to the hospital.

The trials that took place against the detainees were not based on any legal basis, especially since all the detainees were residing in Saudi Arabia legally, and none of them was recorded committing any violation or breach of Saudi law, and the charges against them for supporting orphans and poor families of martyrs, disabled and prisoners as terrorist acts are illogical and illegal, especially since the Palestinian people live under occupation and that their struggle against occupation was sanctioned by international law.

In accordance with the recent developments in the issue of Palestinian detainees, we call on the international community and the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, to take practical steps, in accordance with their legal obligations, in order to advocate for Palestinian human rights and to work for the release of detainees held by the Saudi authorities.

We call for an end to the suffering of all Palestinian detainees held by the Saudi authorities

We call on the team concerned with arbitrary detention at the United Nations to pressure the Saudi authorities to release all Palestinian and Jordanian detainees and to ensure that they obtain all their rights guaranteed to them by relevant international laws.

We also call on human rights activists, as well as human rights organizations, to take positions in support of this humanitarian issue, to reject those judicial rulings, and to work hard for the release of all detainees.

Khiam Center requests the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to demand the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to release the detainees and to abolish the unjust sentences and to call on Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and the entire international community to take urgent action to release the detainees.

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