URGENT ACTION

**UPCOMING HEARING FOR DETAINED BRITISH NATIONAL**

**On August 31, 2024, Saudi authorities arrested British national Ahmed al-Doush, a senior business analyst with Bank of America at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. He was returning to the UK, where he resides, after visiting Saudi Arabia with his wife and children. The charges against him appear to be in relation to social media posts and his alleged association with a Saudi critic in exile, with whom he has no relationship beyond knowing his son. He has faced multiple violations of his fair trial rights. Saudi authorities must immediately release Ahmed al-Doush and allow him to return to the United Kingdom.**

TAKE ACTION:

* Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
* [Click here](https://www.amnestyusa.org/report-urgent-actions/) to report your action(s) on ***Second*** ***UA 27.25***. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Walid bin Mohammad AlSama’ani**

**Minister of Justice**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Postal Code 11472, P.O Box 7775

Email: [1950@moj.gov.sa](mailto:1950@moj.gov.sa)

***Send a copy of your letter to the address below***

**CC: Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the United States**

**Her Royal Highness Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

601 New Hampshire Ave NW,

Washington, DC 20037

Contact Form: <https://www.saudiembassy.net/contact-us>

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned about the continued arbitrary detention of British national **Ahmed al-Doush**. He has been subjected to multiple violations of his fair trial rights. He was detained at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadhon August 31, 2024, while traveling home to the UK with his wife and their three children after a visit to Saudi Arabia.

During his first hearing before a judge in January 2025, Ahmed al-Doush was told that charges would be issued against him for using social media to spread fake and damaging news against the Kingdom, and that he was accused of having a relationship with an individual who threatened the Kingdom's national security. His family believes that these accusations may relate to a 2018 tweet he made concerning the situation in Sudan, and that the second accusation is related to his alleged association with a Saudi critic in exile with whom he has no relationship beyond knowing his son.

I call on the Saudi authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed al-Doush and ensure he has regular access to his family and legal representation.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Ahmed al-Doush** is currently being held in al-Hair Prison in the capital Riyadh. Ahmed al-Doush was assigned a court-appointed lawyer at his first hearing on January 27, 2025, but he is not permitted regular communication with him. Ahead of the hearing, he did not have a lawyer present, and he said he only realized he was being brought before a judge when he arrived. He faced a second trial hearing on March 4, 2025, again without prior notice, and another hearing on April 13. During this hearing, a judge indicated that a judgment would be issued in his case in late April, raising fears that he may soon be sentenced.

As a result of restrictions by prison authorities to what he can share with his wife during his phone calls with her, which he communicated to her in April 2025, she has not received detailed information about his court proceedings, including details regarding the charges and evidence against him, the penalties he may face, nor updates on prison conditions or his health.

For two and a half months after his arrest, Ahmed al-Doush's family was denied any communication with him. They were also not given information about his situation or the reason for his arrest. He was also denied consular access to UK government representatives during this time, severely hindering the UK government and his family’s ability to gather information about him, his detention and steps they might take to facilitate his release. It wasn’t until November 17, 2024 that Ahmed al-Doush was allowed to call his wife. He was then permitted weekly phone calls with his family. However, in January, these calls were interrupted and have now become sporadic.

Ahmed al-Doush was subjected to extensive interrogation without a lawyer present and before being informed of the charges against him. During interrogations, he was reportedly told that if not for his social media activity, he would be home with his family. Notably, his X account has only 37 followers and a total of four posts.

Since his arrest, Ahmed al-Doush has been permitted three consular visits from the British embassy in Riyadh, with the first consular visit on November 21, 2025, nearly three months after his arrest. Ahead of the visit, the UK government did not share any information known about his detention, status, or well-being with his family, claiming this was on the grounds of data protection.

Since 2013, Amnesty International has documented the cases of 86 individuals who had been prosecuted solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including human rights defenders, peaceful political activists, journalists, poets and clerics. Of those, 40 were prosecuted for legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of expression on social media. Amnesty International is aware that the real number of such prosecutions is likely much higher.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET**: Arabic, English, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL**: October 30, 2025

**NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN**: Ahmed al-Doush (he/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA**: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-british-business-analyst-arbitrarily-detained-saudi-arabia-27-25/>