URGENT ACTION

**WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVIST AWAITING RE-SENTENCING**

**Fitness influencer and women’s rights activist, Manahel al-Otaibi, is scheduled to be taken in front of Saudi Arabia’s Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) on June 25, 2025. Manahel al-Otaibi has been imprisoned since November 16, 2022. On January 9, 2024, the SCC sentenced Manahel al-Otaibi to 11 years in prison for “terrorist offenses” in a secret trial. She was initially charged with violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law, then faced additional charges under the counter-terror law due to her tweets in support of women’s rights as well as posting photos of herself at the mall without an abaya (a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe) on Snapchat. Saudi authorities have subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment, as well as enforced disappearance.**

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 ***Sixth UA 14.24***. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Waleed Mohammed Al Smani**

**Minister of Justice**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Postal Code 11472, P.O.Box 7775

Email: minister-office@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

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned about the continued arbitrary detention of fitness influencer and women’s rights activist, **Manahel al-Otaibi**.

Manahel al-Otaibi was arrested on November 16, 2022, and charged with violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law for tweeting hashtags in support of women’s rights and posting photos on Snapchat of herself at the mall without wearing an Abaya (a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe). As well as being subjected to months-long periods of enforced disappearance Manahel al-Otaibi has also been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in al-Malaz Prison.

I urge you to order the immediate and unconditional release of Manahel al-Otaibi, as she has been convicted solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression. Pending her release, she must be granted immediate access to medical care, and her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment must be impartially investigated.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Manahel al-Otaibi**’s case was first heard by the Criminal Court in Riyadh. The charges against her are based on her social media posts which were “opposed to regulations and laws that relate to women”, including through calling to #EndMaleGuardianship. On January 23, 2023, the Criminal Court ruled that it had no jurisdiction to try this case and referred the case to the SCC. The SCC has routinely used vague provisions under the anti-cybercrime and counter-terror laws equating peaceful expression with “terrorism”. Amnesty International has documented how [every stage of the SCC judicial process](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/1633/2020/en/) is tainted by human rights violations. Women’s rights activists [reported](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2018/11/saudi-arabia-reports-of-torture-and-sexual-harassment-of-detained-activists/) facing sexual harassment, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment during interrogation.

Before the most recent enforced disappearance between December 15, 2024 to March 15, 2025, Saudi authorities had already forcibly disappeared Manahel al-Otaibi for over five months from November 5, 2023, until April 2024. On April 14, 2024, she called her family to inform them that she was being held in solitary confinement in al-Malaz Prison with a broken leg after being brutally beaten, and without access to medical care.

In September 2024, after a one-month period of incommunicado detention, Manahel al-Otaibi was able to contact her family, and she alleged she had been held in solitary confinement for a full month and subject to beatings by prison guards and fellow prisoners. Her sister Fawzia al-Otaibi told Amnesty International that she believes the only reason Manahel al-Otaibi was finally permitted a phone call was to convey a message to her family to stop being publicly outspoken about her imprisonment.

Manahel al-Otaibi suffers from multiple sclerosis, a chronic neurological disorder, which her family said developed after she witnessed the arrest of her older sister, Mariam al-Otaibi. Mariam al-Otaibi, a prominent human rights defender and campaigner against the male guardianship system, was detained in 2017 for 104 days for defending women’s rights and is currently subjected to a travel ban and restrictions on her freedom of expression.

Manahel al-Otaibi’s other sister, Fawzia al-Otaibi, has also faced charges related to their campaigning for women’s rights. In the same case against Manahel al-Otaibi submitted by the public prosecution to the Riyadh Criminal Court, the Public Prosecutor accused Fawzia al-Otaibi of leading “a propaganda campaign to incite Saudi girls to denounce religious principles and rebel against customs and traditions in the Saudi culture” and using a hashtag “which promotes liberation and the fall of male guardianship”. The court document, reviewed by Amnesty International, states that a separate order would be issued for Fawzia al-Otaibi’s arrest. Fawzia al-Otaibi fled Saudi Arabia fearing arrest after being summoned for questioning in 2022.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL**: October 12, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN**: Manahel al-Otaibi (she/her).

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA**: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-trial-hearing-for-imprisoned-womens-rights-activist/>