

October 2018



The shocking murder of *Washington Post* columnist and Mohammed bin Salman-critic Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi officials is unfortunately not an isolated case. The following cases are illustrative of the repression that Saudi Arabia has carried out against other Saudi citizens who are perceived critics since bin Salman became crown prince in June 2017.

## Executions

- In July 2017, four Shia men were **executed** for participating in anti-government protests, which the government labeled “terrorism.”
- In the first four months of 2018, Saudi Arabia **executed** 48 people, half of them for nonviolent drug charges.

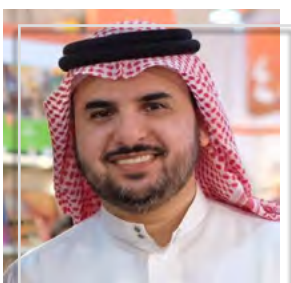
## Death Sentences

- In September 2017, a court upheld a **death sentence** against **Abdul Karim al-Hawaj**, who was arrested for taking part in protests when he was **16 years old**.
- In July 2017, Saudi Arabia’s Supreme Judicial Council upheld the **death sentences** against **14 citizens** for “supporting protests” and “spreading the Shia faith” in the country’s Eastern Province in 2011, despite their claims that they were tortured to extract confessions.
- In June 2018, another **four Saudis** were **sentenced to death** for alleged espionage on behalf of Iran.



## Enforced Disappearances, Detentions, and Imprisonments

- Businessman and economics writer **Essam al-Zamil** disappeared in September 2017 after he expressed skepticism regarding plans to list ARAMCO on domestic and international stock exchanges. On October 1, 2018, he was **charged** with 13 separate offenses including seeking to undermine the social fabric of the nation and to stir up sedition in the Kingdom through Twitter.



**Mustafa al-Hassan**

- **Jamal Farsi**, a businessman and journalist, was **arrested** in September 2017 for criticizing plans to privatize state-run companies.
- **Mustafa al-Hassan**, a blogger and journalist with a large Twitter following, **disappeared** in September 2017.
- **Abdullah al-Malki**, a writer and activist, disappeared from his house in September 2017, and is assumed **detained**, likely for his work advocating for freedom of expression.
- In November 2017, Mohammed bin Salman **ordered** the arrest of dozens of members of the royal family and the business community, froze their assets, and detained them without trial, refusing to release them until they handed over personal assets to the state.
  - ↳ **Maj. Gen. Ali al-Qahtani**, an aide to Prince Turki, **died** while in custody. He reportedly was found with his neck “twisted unnaturally” and showed signs of bruising and electric burns.



**Essam al-Zamil**



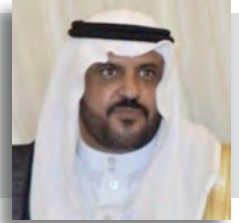
**Saleh al-Shehi**

- **Al Banakhi**, a satirical blogger, was **detained** in December 2017.
- **Saleh al-Shehi**, a prominent columnist with 1.2 million Twitter followers, **disappeared** in December 2017 and was later sentenced to five years in prison for “insulting the court” after he said in an interview that people with ties to the Royal Court received special access to purchase land.



**Al Banakhi**

- In January 2018, human rights activists and co-founders of the Union for Human Rights **Mohammed al-Otaibi** and **Abdullah al-Attawi** were **sentenced** to 14 and 7 years in prison, respectively, for “forming an unlicensed organization.” Both were tried in the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC), which tries terrorism cases.

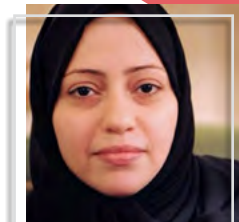


**Mohammed al-Otaibi**

• In 2018, prominent women’s rights activists were **arrested**, many of whom **campaign**ed for the right to drive and against the male guardianship system, including:

- **Loujain al-Hathloul**, previously detained for 73 days in 2014 after trying to drive from the United Arab Emirates into Saudi Arabia and again in 2017;
- **Hatoon al-Fassi**, a prominent women’s rights **advocate**, associate professor of women’s history at King Saud University, and the first woman to drive after the driving ban was lifted;
- **Eman al-Nafjan**, a prominent blogger and commentator on Saudi women’s issues who drove in Riyadh in 2011 as part of an organized protest;
- **Aziza al-Yousef**, who has participated in right-to-drive protests since the early 1990s and who recently filed a petition with 14,500 signatures calling for an end to the guardianship laws;
- **Aisha al-Manea**, who took part in the first right-to-drive protest in 1990;
- **Madeha al-Ajrourh**, who took part in the first right-to-drive protest in 1990;
- **Hessah al-Sheikh**, who took part in the first right-to-drive protest in 1990;
- **Wala’a al-Shubbar**, who was active in a 2016 online anti-guardianship campaign; and
- Three men who supported the women’s rights activists—**Mohammed al-Rabea**, a youth activist, **Ibrahim al-Modeimigh**, Loujain’s lawyer in related court proceedings, and **Abdulaziz al-Meshaal**, a businessman—were also detained.

- **Mohammed al-Bajadi**, the founder of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association, was **arrested** by the Saudi government in May 2018 and remains detained without charges.
- On July 30, **Amal al-Harbi**—the wife of jailed activist Fowzan al-Harbi—was **arrested** for unknown reasons. She is **not known** to have been an activist, leading many experts to believe she was arrested for her husband’s work.
- **Samar Badawi**, an activist and **winner** of the International Women of Courage Award for her work challenging the guardianship system, was **arrested** in August 2018. Badawi’s former husband, Waleed Abulkhair, is **serving** 15 years for human rights activism and her brother Raif Badawi, a well known blogger, is serving a 10-year **sentence** for “insulting Islam through electronic channels.”
- **Nassima al-Sadah**, an activist, was also **arrested** in August 2018. She was a candidate in the 2015 municipal elections—the first elections in which women were allowed to run—but authorities removed her name from the ballot.



**Badawi**



**al-Sadah**