

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# MUSTERBRIEF

## APPELLE AN

### JUSTIZMINISTER

Waleed Mohammed Al Smani

Minister of Justice

Postal Code 11472

P.O. Box 7775

Riad

SAUDI-ARABIEN

**Email: [minister-office@moj.gov.sa](mailto:minister-office@moj.gov.sa)**

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## KOPIEN AN

### Botschaft des Königreichs Saudi-Arabien

S.E. Herr Abdullah Khalid O TAWLAH

Schottenring 21

1010 Wien

**Fax: (+43 / 1) 367 25 40**

**E-Mail: [saudiembassy\(at\)saudiembassy.at](mailto:saudiembassy(at)saudiembassy.at)**

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# ANMERKUNGEN

## AMNESTY FORDERT:

- Ich fordere Sie auf zu veranlassen, dass Manahel al-Otaibi umgehend und bedingungslos freigelassen wird, da sie sich nur aufgrund der friedlichen Ausübung ihres Rechts auf freie Meinungsäußerung in Haft befindet.
  - Bis zu ihrer Freilassung muss ihr unverzüglich Zugang zu medizinischer Versorgung gewährt werden, und ihre Vorwürfe der Folter und anderer Misshandlungen müssen unparteiisch untersucht werden.
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# INHALT

Your Excellency,

I am distressed to learn that the Specialized Criminal Court in Saudi Arabia has sentenced 30-year-old fitness instructor and women's rights activist

**Manahel al-Otaibi**

to eleven years in prison on "terrorist offences" after a secret trial. The decision was only revealed weeks later in the Saudi government's formal reply to a request for information in a Joint Communication by UN Special Rapporteurs about her case.

On 9 January 2024, the Specialized Criminal Court found Manahel al-Otaibi guilty under articles 43 and 44 of the Kingdom's Law for Combatting Terrorism and its Financing. Manahel al-Otaibi's family have not had access to her court documents, or the evidence presented against her.

Manahel al-Otaibi was arrested on 16 November 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 wearing "immodest" clothing. Her case was first heard by the Criminal Court in Riyadh on 23 January 2023 who referred her to the Specialized Criminal Court. According to court documents reviewed by Amnesty International, Manahel al-Otaibi was charged with "publishing and spreading content that contains committing public sins and inciting individuals and girls in society to renounce religious principles and social values and to violate public order and public morals on her Twitter account", in violation of the Anti-Cybercrime Law. 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.

Saudi authorities forcibly disappeared Manahel al-Otaibi between 5 November 2023 and 14 April 2024. On 14 April 2024, after a period more than five months of enforced disappearance, she called her family to inform them that she is being held in solitary confinement in al-Malaz Prison with a broken leg after being brutally beaten, and without access to medical care.

Her sister Fawzia al-Otaibi told Amnesty International that she believes the only reason Manahel al-Otaibi was finally permitted a phone call was in order to convey a message to her family to stop being publicly outspoken about her imprisonment. Her family alleged

that Manahel al-Otaibi spent “months” in solitary confinement, based on information provided to them by former detainees who had been held in the same prison. Prolonged solitary confinement for more than 15 days is a violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

**I urge you to order the immediate and unconditional release of Manahel al-Otaibi, as she has been convicted solely for peacefully 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,