

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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His Royal Highness Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Highness,

I write to request your assistance in facilitating a visit by a Human Rights Watch research delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We would like to meet with Saudi government officials to discuss human rights issues of mutual interest and conduct private visits with high-profile detainees, some of whom have been prevented from contacting family members or lawyers for three months or longer.

Human Rights Watch is an independent nongovernmental organization concerned with human rights issues that is doing research in close to 100 countries around the world. We regularly reach out to governments to share our human rights concerns so that we may reflect their views in our reports. Our staff have visited prisons in numerous countries to document conditions and provide credible, independent assessments of the treatment of detainees.

As you are aware, a number of Saudi human rights activists jailed for their activism in recent years have alleged that Saudi authorities tortured them in detention, including at least four well-known women's rights activists who are on trial for promoting women's rights in Saudi Arabia. While Saudi Arabia's Public Prosecution stated in March 2019 that the allegations had been investigated by the Public Prosecution and Human Rights Commission and found to be unsubstantiated, we believe that a Human Rights Watch monitoring mission could make a credible, impartial finding that would be accepted globally.

In addition, Human Rights Watch has received worrying reports that several high-profile detainees have been cut off from the outside world for extended periods in 2020 and prevented from contacting lawyers or family members. These detainees include two prominent women's rights activists, the popular religious figure Salman al-Awda, and former crown prince Mohammed bin Nayef. We seek your permission to visit these detainees in the facilities in which they are held and to meet with them privately to ensure their well-being.


We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with other government officials to discuss challenges and achievements in

implementing human rights standards in the Kingdom. Such a visit will enable us to hear in detail the perspectives of officials from a range of ministries, which we will, as always, reflect fairly in our ongoing reporting.

Please do not hesitate to contact Adam Coogle, deputy Middle East and North Africa director, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], should you have questions.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to a positive response, following which we will be pleased to send you more specifics as to proposed dates for our visit and who from Human Rights Watch we propose should participate.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Adam Coogle
Deputy Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch