

Amnesty International Southend Group

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Free women imprisoned for campaigning for the right to drive in Saudi Arabia

24th June was an historic moment for women's rights in Saudi Arabia as the government there lifted the women's driving ban.

However, at midnight on 19 May 2018, the Saudi Press Agency reported that seven unnamed individuals were arrested, accusing them of forming a "cell", posing a threat to state security for their "contact with foreign entities with the aim of undermining the country's stability and social fabric." The following day, a chilling smear campaign ensued in government-aligned media, revealing the names of several of the activists detained, branding them as "traitors".

Among the detained are prominent women's rights activists and other human rights defenders who have campaigned for years for the lifting of the women's driving ban and an end to other laws and practices that discriminate against women and girls. Government aligned media identified the detained activists as Loujain al-Hathloul, Iman al-Nafjan, Aziza al-Yousef, and two other activists.

Please write to the Saudi Arabian embassy in London, calling on the authorities to release the activists immediately. Amnesty supporters around the world will also be urging their embassies to do the same.

PTO for draft letter to the Saudi Ambassador

Or e-mail him via AI UK website

I am writing to raise my serious concerns about the wave of arrests against women's rights activists in Saudi Arabia.

I am deeply troubled that the government of Saudi Arabia has lifted the women's driving ban on yet the authorities are arresting the Saudi Arabian women and men who have been at the forefront of the campaign to lift the ban.

Amnesty International is also extremely concerned about the well-being of the detained activists. They were detained solely for their peaceful human rights work, and we urge you to call on the Saudi Arabian authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally. Pending their release, we urge you to call on the authorities to guarantee their safety from torture and other ill-treatment, to reveal their whereabouts and legal status, including any charges pending, and ensure they can communicate with, and receive visits from family and a legal representative of their choosing without delay.

To: HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf Al Saud
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
30 Charles St,
Mayfair,
London W1J 5DZ