

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud  
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques  
Office of His Majesty the King  
Royal Court, Riyadh  
SAUDI-ARABIEN

Your Majesty,

In July 2014, the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC) in Jeddah found Waleed Abu al-Khair guilty of “disobeying the ruler” and “insulting the judiciary”, among other things. He was sentenced by the SCC to 15 years in prison, followed by a travel ban, and a large fine. Waleed Abu al-Khair is a prominent lawyer and human rights defender. He has provided legal representation to many victims of human rights violations. Abu al-Khair had been actively harassed, monitored, arrested and interrogated on numerous occasions by the Saudi Arabian authorities before he was sentenced under the new counter-terror law. Waleed Abu al-Khair has complained of torture and other ill-treatment in prison. He has been beaten, was placed in solitary confinement, and deprived of sleep.

I would like to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Waleed Abu al-Khair. Please quash his conviction and prison sentence and drop all charges against him. Please ensure also that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, pending his release. Stop arresting, detaining and otherwise harassing peaceful activists and human rights defenders, and stop trying them before the Specialized Criminal Courts.

Yours sincerely

Copy:

Botschaft des Königreichs Saudi-Arabien  
S. E. Prinz Khalid bin Bandar  
bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
Tiergartenstr. 33-34  
10785 Berlin

Fax: 030 – 88 92 51 76  
E-Mail: [deemb@mofa.gov.s](mailto:deemb@mofa.gov.s)