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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-fifth session**  
22 January–2 February 2024

## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Saudi Arabia\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 29 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Information provided by stakeholders**

##### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>3</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

2. JS1, ALQST, AI, Alkarama, JS2, MAAT and HRW recommended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>4</sup>

3. JS9, JS2, JS4, Alkarama, AI, MAAT and JS3 recommended Saudi Arabia to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>5</sup>

4. JS3, and ALQST recommended the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.<sup>6</sup>

5. JS2, ALQST and JS9 recommended Saudi Arabia to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.<sup>7</sup>

6. JS2 and HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to accede to the International Covenant on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.<sup>8</sup>

7. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to ratify the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment (C190), and the Protocol of 2014 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930.<sup>9</sup>

8. ICAN urged Saudi Arabia to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.<sup>10</sup>

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



9. JS9 called on Saudi Arabia to remove reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.<sup>11</sup>

10. JS1 and JS3 recommended the Government to put an immediate moratorium on application of the death penalty and ratify the ICCPR and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming towards abolition of the death penalty.<sup>12</sup>

11. AI recommended the Government to, among others, ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement them fully into domestic law.<sup>13</sup>

12. ALQST and JS1 recommended the Government to accept all currently pending visit requests and issue a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures mandate holders.<sup>14</sup>

## **B. National human rights framework**

### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

13. JS1 called on Saudi Arabia to adopt new legislation on association and ensure it is in line with international standards, particularly by implementing a system of notification for the establishment of associations that is simple,<sup>15</sup> accessible and non-discriminatory.<sup>16</sup>

14. Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to define and criminalise torture in line with the UN Convention against Torture.<sup>17</sup>

15. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to enact and amend laws to reinforce protections against arbitrary arrest and detention, abuses of due process, and fair trial violations.<sup>18</sup>

16. JS3 called on Saudi Arabia to abolish the death penalty for people who were under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged crime, and immediately commute the death sentences of any person not proven to have been at least 18 years old at the time of the alleged offense.<sup>19</sup>

17. JS8 recommended Saudi Arabia to review and amend legislations that provide for the death penalty to ensure that its application is restricted to the “most serious crimes”, as required by the Arab Charter.<sup>20</sup>

18. JS9 recommended the Government to repeal immediately the death penalty for apostasy and begin steps to remove the criminalisation of apostasy.<sup>21</sup>

19. JS1 recommended Saudi Arabia to adopt a new media law that respects the freedom of the press and abrogate content-based offenses from Articles 3 and 6 of the Anti-Cybercrime Law.<sup>22</sup>

20. JS5 recommended Saudi Arabia to create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society, in accordance with the rights enshrined in the ICCPR, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31.<sup>23</sup>

21. JS5 urged Saudi Arabia to abolish criminal responsibility for organising and participating in the activities of non-registered organisations and lift the ban on the activities of non-registered organisations.<sup>24</sup>

22. Alkarama recommended to amend the 2015 Law on Associations to allow the registration of all independent civil society organisations, including those advocating for civil and political rights.<sup>25</sup> JS4 called on the Government to criminalize all forms of violence and discrimination against women by holding the perpetrators accountable.<sup>26</sup>

23. ALQST recommended to adopt a comprehensive penal code, and implement legal reforms in line with international human rights standards, including guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary.<sup>27</sup>

24. ALQST recommended to amend the Personal Status Law to bring it into line with international standards.<sup>28</sup>

## 2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

25. ALQST, MAAT and Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that the Saudi Human Rights Commission can work independently and is in line with the Paris Principles.<sup>29</sup>

26. JS4 recommended Saudi Arabia to strengthen Saudi's efforts and design a concrete action plan to abolish the male guardianship system along with the codifications of the Personal Status Law that are based on gender discrimination.<sup>30</sup>

27. JS8 further recommended the Government to uphold the Royal Decree passed in 2020 that outlaws the use of the death penalty against child defendants for all offences.<sup>31</sup>

28. AI and MAAT also recommended Saudi Arabia to declare an official moratorium on all executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.<sup>32</sup>

29. JS8 urged the Government to immediately establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty; and make information relating to its death row population public and available, including sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, and the number of persons sentenced to death, the number of persons on death row, and the number of executions carried out.<sup>33</sup>

30. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to abolish the death penalty for all offenses, starting with offenses that do not meet the "most serious crimes" threshold, especially drug-related offences, and prohibit the execution of child offenders in all cases.<sup>34</sup>

## C. Promotion and protection of human rights

### 1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

31. JS2 recommended the Government to establish a new comprehensive Labour law that would include all migrant workers to protect their rights and dedicated legal aid services to ensure that all migrant workers have access to legal advice and representation.<sup>35</sup>

32. JS2 to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on nationality, social status, and origin in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotion, and termination; and create a comprehensive system of aid specifically designed to support migrant employees who have been subjected to mistreatment, abuse, or exploitation.

33. JS4 urged the Government to eliminate discriminatory attitudes and domestic provisions regarding legal capacity, divorce, guardianship systems, and inheritance.<sup>36</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

34. JS2 recommended the Government to establish, at the highest institutional level, that torture will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be immediately dismissed from their positions if found guilty of this crime; to criminalize sexual violence against women and children, including migrants, and ensure all perpetrators are punished; accordingly, and hold employers accountable for any violations of migrant workers' rights.<sup>37</sup>

35. JS3 recommended the Government to prohibit the use of torture during interrogations.<sup>38</sup>

36. ESOHR recommended to prohibit torture of all kinds and ensure that allegations of torture are investigated before sentencing.<sup>39</sup>

37. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to end all use of torture and other ill-treatment, investigate allegations, and provide reparation to victims.<sup>40</sup>

38. AF further recommended that Saudi Arabia abolish all forms of corporal punishment.<sup>41</sup>

39. Alkarama further recommended the Government to ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are effectively investigated, and perpetrators prosecuted, and that confessions made under torture are systematically excluded from trials.<sup>42</sup>

40. AF recommended that Saudi Arabia abolish the death sentence, return the bodies of executed individuals to their families for burial, adhere to the international trial standards, and put an interim moratorium on imposing and enforcing the death penalty.<sup>43</sup>

41. ALQST recommended to ensure that all Saudi prisons and places of detention adhere to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; and that domestic legal proceedings afford all internationally recognised fair trial guarantees.<sup>44</sup>

#### *International humanitarian law*

42. JS6 recommended Saudi Arabia to analyse current rules of military engagement and ensure that all operational processes and procedures conform to international humanitarian law and international human rights law standards; and to improve intelligence gathering to effectively distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects and to take all feasible precautions to minimize civilian harm.<sup>45</sup>

43. JS6 urged the Government to ensure that investigations and prosecutions are conducted with appropriate speed, diligence, and transparency and that they reflect the seriousness of the potential international humanitarian law and international human rights law violations involved.<sup>46</sup>

44. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to conduct transparent and impartial investigations into credible allegations of laws-of-war violations; make public information on the intended military targets of airstrikes that resulted in civilian casualties and make public all military actors involved in such strikes.<sup>47</sup>

45. AI recommended to independently and impartially investigate credible allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law that may have taken place, make the findings public, and prosecute those suspected of criminal responsibility in fair trials before ordinary civilian courts.<sup>48</sup>

46. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to provide reparations to civilians and their families for deaths, injuries, and property damage resulting from wrongful strikes, as well as other violations of international humanitarian law.<sup>49</sup>

#### *Human rights and counter-terrorism*

47. HRW and AI recommended Saudi Arabia to amend the 2017 counterterrorism law and the 2014 cybercrime law to remove provisions that criminalize peaceful speech; bring both into compliance with international human rights law.<sup>50</sup>

48. Alkarama and JS1 also recommended Saudi Arabia to promulgate a criminal code and amend the Code of Criminal Procedure as well as the Anti-Terrorism Law to comply with international human rights standards on detention and fair trial.<sup>51</sup>

#### *Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

49. JS8 called on the Government to ensure that the judiciary is sufficiently trained to discharge its duty to investigate allegations of torture and ill treatment and to exclude any torture-tainted evidence from all legal proceedings.<sup>52</sup>

50. Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to end the practice of arbitrary and indefinite detention in *Munasaha* centres and release all those detained beyond their sentences in these centres.<sup>53</sup>

51. JS8 recommended Saudi Arabia to promptly carry out an in-depth investigation into all allegations of torture and ill treatment, in line with international standards.<sup>54</sup>

52. JS3 urged the Government to prohibit judges from considering as evidence any statements obtained through coercion, torture, or ill-treatment, except when offered to prove the crime of torture, and require judges to order the prompt, independent, and effective investigation of any such allegations raised by the defence.<sup>55</sup>

53. JS1 recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that violations of freedom of expression and association are subjected to independent, speedy and effective investigations and prosecutions, and ensure that the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners are upheld.<sup>56</sup>

54. JS2 called on Saudi Arabia to conduct impartial investigations into allegations of forced labour and ensure that perpetrators are punished with measures appropriate to the severity of their crimes; and ensure that every perpetrator involved in human trafficking will be convicted.<sup>57</sup>

55. JS5 recommended Saudi Arabia to provide recourse to judicial review and effective remedy, including compensation, in cases of unlawful denial of the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly by state authorities.<sup>58</sup>

56. JS8 recommended Saudi Arabia to conduct a public inquiry into all executions carried out to date and provide appropriate redress to the families of victims who have been arbitrarily executed.<sup>59</sup>

57. JAI observed that that trials in the Specialized Criminal Court and other courts were not open and transparent, and that independent observers, including human rights activists and diplomats, had not been allowed to observe trials since at least 2019.<sup>60</sup>

58. ESOHR recommended to stop the issuance and execution of death sentences on drug charges and ensure that migrant workers arrested on drug-related charges have access to their rights.<sup>61</sup>

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*

59. ADF observed that in previous years, leaders in Saudi Arabia exhibited limited tolerance or recognition of religions other than Islam. However, there is now an increasing display of respect and tolerance toward other religions and their leaders.<sup>62</sup>

60. ADF also stated, however, that online discussions about religion were extensively monitored and regulated by the Saudi government, with reports indicating that even mildly religious commentary could be harshly punished.<sup>63</sup>

61. ADF recommended Saudi Arabia to implement legal reforms recognizing the freedom to practice one's religion and the freedom to express ideas about religion, as protected under international human rights law.<sup>64</sup>

62. ADF recommended the decriminalization of apostasy and blasphemy;<sup>65</sup> and to ensure that non-Muslim individuals were not prosecuted for their beliefs, and that Muslims were permitted to leave Islam and adopt another religion or belief without fear of legal sanctions.<sup>66</sup>

63. ADF recommended the Government to ensure that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is duly recognized and respected, in accordance with relevant international human rights law.

64. JS9 recommended Saudi Arabia to recognise the rights of Christians and others who left Islam to be able to worship and practice their religion or belief openly without reprisals.<sup>67</sup>

65. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to permit religious minorities to teach and practice their religious beliefs without intimidation.<sup>68</sup>

66. AI, JS5, JS1 and HRW called on the Government to unconditionally and immediately release all protesters, HRDs and journalists detained for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and review their cases to prevent further harassment.<sup>69</sup>

67. ESOHR urged the Government to release all prisoners of conscience, journalists, and human rights defenders, and prohibit the criminalization of any practice related to the expression of opinion, including electronic publishing.<sup>70</sup>

68. JS1 urged the Government to cease all surveillance operations and persecution of individuals and respect the right to privacy and introduce strong and effective transparency and oversight mechanisms for all matters related to mass surveillance and the acquisition of surveillance technology.<sup>71</sup>

69. JAI stated that the fundamental rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association could not be practiced in Saudi Arabia without fear of repercussion in the form of arrest, detention or death, and that Saudi authorities regularly arrested and detained persons for peaceful activism and speech including journalism and online postings.<sup>72</sup>

*Right to marriage and family life*

70. CFam recommended Saudi Arabia to continue prioritizing maternal and child health and education for women and girls and share its best practices with others.<sup>73</sup>

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

71. JS2 recommended the Government to abolish the visa sponsorship *kafala* system for migrant workers; engage in labour reforms to protect migrant workers' rights; include all migrant workers in future labour reforms; and enhance the rights of migrant workers.<sup>74</sup>

72. JS2 called on Saudi Arabia to establish concrete measures to protect migrant workers from being trafficked and provide them with appropriate support and protection; track potential cases of human trafficking within vulnerable populations; and enhance welfare services and assistance available to victims of human trafficking, ensuring comprehensive support that includes legal aid, medical care, and psychosocial services.<sup>75</sup>

73. JS6 recommended Saudi Arabia to explicitly prohibit employers from confiscating workers' passports and from charging recruitment fees; and ensure that employers are investigated and appropriately sanctioned.<sup>76</sup>

74. MAAT recommended the Government to increase efforts to prosecute human trafficking offenses and seek appropriate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should include lengthy prison sentences and heavy fines.<sup>77</sup>

75. MAAT recommended Saudi Arabia to consider activating a Human Trafficking Victims Fund, which would grant victims of trafficking all the rights assigned to them.<sup>78</sup>

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

76. JS7 recommended Saudi Arabia to abolish the system of visa sponsorship so that all migrant workers are free to change employers, abolish the absconding and *huroob* laws and remove all restrictions on exit permits to enable migrants to freely return to their countries without requiring permission.<sup>79</sup>

77. JS7 urged the Government to incorporate domestic workers into the labour law and establish a minimum wage for all migrant workers.<sup>80</sup>

78. HRW recommended that Saudi Arabia ensure adequate heat protection for workers, including adopting the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature index and enforcing guidelines that impose work stoppages during extreme heat.<sup>81</sup>

79. HRW recommended that Saudi Arabia to establish a wage insurance fund to ensure workers receive their unclaimed wages and other benefits when employers fail to pay; and to ensure all deaths of workers are properly investigated, and families of the deceased have access to compensation.<sup>82</sup>

80. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to amend the labour law to include domestic workers, and the 2013 bylaws on domestic workers to ensure they comply fully with the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.<sup>83</sup>

81. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to enforce the prohibition on the confiscation of workers' passports and investigate alleged abuses of workers by employers;<sup>84</sup> and guarantee migrant workers' right to strike, freely associate and collectively bargain.<sup>85</sup>

82. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to impose strict penalties on employers that fail to issue, or renew at the request of workers, residence permits of workers in a timely manner.<sup>86</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

83. Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that adequate compensation is provided for all losses because of evictions, and that no one is left homeless as a result of evictions, including citizens and non-citizens.<sup>87</sup>

84. Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that all victims of forced evictions are provided with effective remedy.<sup>88</sup>

*Right to health*

85. CFam highlighted that Saudi Arabia had achieved significant progress in reducing maternal and child deaths and improving educational opportunities for women and girls, while maintaining legal protections for unborn children.<sup>89</sup>

86. CFam noted that abortion was only legal up to four months' gestation when the mother's life or health was deemed at risk, and it was not available on request or for financial or other hardships; legal authorization by health professionals and parental and spousal consent was required, and self-managed abortion was not permitted.<sup>90</sup>

*Right to education*

87. Broken Chalk recognized the improvements in the educational sphere of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; but noted that school children from Saudi Arabia scored poorly in comparative tests, with a university dropout rate of almost 50 per cent.<sup>91</sup>

88. Broken Chalk recommended Saudi Arabia to invest in robust teacher training, emphasizing interdisciplinary and critical thinking in curricula, ensure inclusive and accessible education, prioritizing early childhood development, and enhance infrastructures especially in underserved areas.<sup>92</sup>

89. Broken Chalk recommended providing financial aids for low-income students, incorporating technology, fostering academic-industry collaborations, integrating work-integrated learning opportunities, utilizing assessments to inform instructional strategies, and addressing gender inequalities in education.<sup>93</sup>

*Cultural rights*

90. BAQEE noted that pilgrims faced active harassment and discriminatory treatment from Saudi officials when attempting to visit and worship at such sites.<sup>94</sup> BAQEE recommended that Saudi Arabia take urgent action to ensure that all Muslim pilgrims are permitted to visit and pray at Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia, including at sites with historical significance like cemeteries, and to remove all barriers to worship by non-Wahhabi Muslims.<sup>95</sup>

91. BAQEE recommended that Saudi Arabia should prevent the destruction of all Islamic historical, cultural and heritage sites in Saudi Arabia.<sup>96</sup> BAQEE recommended that Saudi Arabia ensure the protection of the freedom of expression for any individual expressing support for the preservation and restoration of Islamic historical, cultural and heritage sites in Saudi Arabia.<sup>97</sup>

92. Alkarama recommended Saudi Arabia to immediately end the repeated arrest of pilgrims and ensure a safe access to all Muslims to the holy sites of Saudi Arabia regardless of their real or perceived political opinions.<sup>98</sup>

93. Alkarama called on the Government to release immediately all pilgrims arrested while on their way to perform their religious pilgrimage based on their real or perceived political opinions.<sup>99</sup>

**2. Rights of specific persons or groups***Women*

94. JS4 urged Saudi Arabia to unconditionally release women human rights defenders who have been imprisoned for their activism on women's rights.<sup>100</sup>

95. Broken Chalk noted that despite advancements, Saudi Arabian women encountered educational barriers, including cultural norms, mobility restrictions, and a gender-segregated system, which limited their access to education and exposure to diverse perspectives.<sup>101</sup>

96. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to abolish the male guardianship system, including by promulgating anti-discrimination legislation that prohibits discrimination against women; ensuring women can access all forms of healthcare, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, without guardian permission or proof of marital status.<sup>102</sup>

97. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to amend the Saudi Nationality Regulation of 1954 to stipulate that a Saudi citizen is any person born to a Saudi father or Saudi mother.<sup>103</sup>

98. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to revise the new personal status law to ensure men and women enjoyed equal rights in family matters, including to freely enter marriage, during marriage, and in divorce, as well as decisions relating to their children. Ensure women are consulted on such changes.<sup>104</sup>

99. MAAT recommended Saudi Arabia to consider increasing women's political participation and women's representation in decision-making positions.<sup>105</sup>

100. MAAT also recommended removing all obstacles to women's access to justice.<sup>106</sup>

101. ESOHR recommended Saudi Arabia to activate mechanisms to protect women from violence.<sup>107</sup>

#### *Children*

102. JS8 recommended Saudi Arabia to immediately cease the use of the death penalty against child defendants, regardless of the offence committed, including commuting the sentences of all child defendants on death row.<sup>108</sup>

103. ALQST recommended Saudi Arabia to immediately repeal all death sentences against minors and those issued for non-violent offences that do not meet the international threshold of "most serious crimes".<sup>109</sup>

104. HRW recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that children were only detained as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time.<sup>110</sup>

105. End Violence noted that, despite some legislative measures and reported prohibitions during the universal periodic review of Saudi Arabia in 2009, corporal punishment remained lawful in various settings including homes, alternative care, day care, schools, and penal institutions.<sup>111</sup>

106. MAAT recommended to Saudi Arabia to consider ending all forms of corporal punishment against children.<sup>112</sup>

107. MAAT recommended the Government to consider launching more initiatives to raise awareness of the seriousness of violence against children at home and in educational facilities.<sup>113</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

108. Broken Chalk observed that students faced challenges accessing inclusive education due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of specialised instructional materials, and social stigma, and that many schools in Saudi Arabia lacked accessible facilities for students with disabilities, including ramps, elevators, and specialised classrooms.<sup>114</sup>

109. Broken Chalk also observed that the availability of technical programs and services for students with disabilities was limited, particularly in rural parts of Saudi Arabia. This lack of adequate support hindered the educational progress and inclusion of students with disabilities.<sup>115</sup>

110. Broken Chalk recommended Saudi Arabia to implement inclusive education practices that ensure equal access and opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities and from marginalised backgrounds.<sup>116</sup>



*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

111. CFAM observed that in Saudi Arabia there was no recognition of same-sex relationships, and homosexual behaviour between both men and women was criminalized.<sup>117</sup>

112. CFAM observed that the right to found a family was based on the union of a man and a woman, and that relations between individuals of the same sex and other social and legal arrangements that were neither equivalent nor analogous to the family were not entitled to the protections singularly reserved for the family in international law and policy.<sup>118</sup>

*Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers*

113. JS7 urged the Government to ensure that all migrants, regardless of their legal status, have access to health care; and to provide interpreters and legal aid to all migrant workers who lodge complaints and potential victims of trafficking.<sup>119</sup>

114. JS7 recommended Saudi Arabia to strengthen accountability among agents and government-affiliated recruitment agencies to ensure safe migration processes are practised upon recruitment, during pre-departure processes and on the deployment of migrant workers.<sup>120</sup>

115. OKUP commended the Saudi authorities for the measures taken to improve the rights of migrant workers since the last review in 2018, but noted that more needed to be done.<sup>121</sup>

116. OKUP positively noted the establishment of the Labour Reform Initiative (LRI), a multi-lingual call center where migrant workers may file complaints about abuses by employers and get assistance and safe place.<sup>122</sup>

117. OKUP stated, however, that women domestic migrant workers did not enjoy full access to the service, mainly because there was no mechanism in place to inform them about the new service.<sup>123</sup>

118. In 2021, OKUP surveyed 262 surveyed women domestic workers returning from Saudi Arabia. According to their findings, 60% experiences abuse, including physical, 33% endured psychological torture, 16% suffered from sexual abuse, and 37% had not been fully paid by their employers.<sup>124</sup>

119. OKUP recommended Saudi Arabia to eliminate the *kafala* system, establish a clear, accountable recruitment process, enforce laws against employer confiscation of migrant workers' passports, and ensure standard and portable health insurance for migrant workers.<sup>125</sup>

120. HRW also recommended Saudi Arabia to dismantle the *kafala* system and ensure that worker's legal status was not tied to an employer, including by ensuring workers could change employers at any time without permission and by removing punishments, like deportation and re-entry bans, for "absconding".<sup>126</sup>

121. OKUP also recommended the Government to create a functional mechanism to hold employers responsible for any abuse or rights violations of migrant workers and strengthen prosecution facilities for migrant workers so that they have full access to justice and remedy.<sup>127</sup>

122. HRW further recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure all people have the right to leave the country, including by abolishing "exit visa" procedures.<sup>128</sup>

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/40/4 and A/HRC/40/4/Add.1, and A/HRC/40/2.

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

AC foundation

Arab Council foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);

ADF International

ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);

ADHRB	Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington (United States of America);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Alkarama	Alkarama Foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);
ALQST	ALQST for Human Rights, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Alsalam	Alsalam Foundation, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
BAQEE	Al Baqee Organization, Chicago (United States of America);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CFam	Center for Family and Human Rights, New York (United States of America);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
End Violence	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, New York (United States of America);
ESOHR	European Saudi Organization for Human Rights, Berlin (Germany);
GSGPPHRWS	Geneva Support Group for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Western Sahara, Genève (Switzerland);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc. (United States of America);
JSC	Journalist Support Committee, Beirut (Lebanon);
MAAT	Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
MENA Rights	MENA Rights Group, Chatelaine (Switzerland);
OKUP	Ovibashi Karim Unnayan Program, Dhaka (Bangladesh).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> Access Now, New York (United States of America);
JS2	<b>Joint submission 2 submitted by:</b> Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington (United States of America);
JS3	<b>Joint submission 3 submitted by:</b> Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America);
JS4	<b>Joint submission 4 submitted by:</b> Alsalam Foundation, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS5	<b>Joint submission 5 submitted by:</b> CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS6	<b>Joint submission 6 submitted by:</b> Columbia Law School Smith Family Human Rights Clinic, New York (United States of America);
JS7	<b>Joint submission 7 submitted by:</b> Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, Bangkok (Thailand);
JS8	<b>Joint submission 8 submitted by:</b> Reprieve, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS9	<b>Joint submission 9 submitted by:</b> Set My People Free, Gnosjö (Sweden).
<sup>3</sup> <i>The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:</i>	
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW

CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>4</sup> See JS1, para. 7 ; HRW, p. 3; ALQST, p 2, para. 8 ; JS2, p.10 ; MAAT, p 1 ; AI, p 4, para 31 ; ALQST, p 2, para. 8 ; ALKARMA, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> See JS2, p.10 ; JS3, para. 36 ; JS4, p. 9 ; JS9, p. 1 ; MAAT, p. 1 ; ALKARMA, p. 2 ; AI, p 4, para. 31

<sup>6</sup> See JS3, para. 36 ; ALQST, p. 2, para. 8.

<sup>7</sup> See JS2, p. 10 ; JS9, p. 1 ; ALQST, p. 2, para. 8.

<sup>8</sup> JS2, p. 10; HRW, p. 7.

<sup>9</sup> HRW, p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> ICAN, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> JS9, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> JS1, para. 7 ; JS3, para. 36.

<sup>13</sup> AI, p 4, para. 31.

<sup>14</sup> ALQST, p. 2, para 8 ; JS1, para. 7.

<sup>15</sup> JS2, p. 11.

<sup>16</sup> JS1, para. 25.

<sup>17</sup> ALKARMA, p. 7.

<sup>18</sup> HRW, p. 4.

<sup>19</sup> JS3, para. 36.

<sup>20</sup> JS8, p. 12.

<sup>21</sup> JS9, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> JS1, para. 20.

<sup>23</sup> JS5, p.13.

<sup>24</sup> JS5, p.13.

<sup>25</sup> ALKARMA, p. 3.

<sup>26</sup> JS4, p. 9.

<sup>27</sup> ALQST, p 3, para. 12.

<sup>28</sup> ALQST, p 7, para. 28.

<sup>29</sup> ALKARMA, p. 3 ; ALQST, p. 2, para 8 ; MAAT p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> JS4, p. 8.

<sup>31</sup> JS8, p. 15.

<sup>32</sup> AI, p. 5, para. 40 ; MAAT, p. 3.

<sup>33</sup> JS8, p. 7.

<sup>34</sup> HRW, p. 5.

<sup>35</sup> JS2, p. 11.

<sup>36</sup> JS4, p. 9.

<sup>37</sup> JS2, p. 11.

<sup>38</sup> JS3, para. 36.

<sup>39</sup> ESOHR, p. 9.

<sup>40</sup> HRW, p. 4.

<sup>41</sup> AF, p. 4.

<sup>42</sup> ALKARMA, p. 7.

<sup>43</sup> AF, p. 4.

<sup>44</sup> ALQST, p. 3, para. 12.

<sup>45</sup> JS6, p. 16.

<sup>46</sup> JS6, p. 16.

<sup>47</sup> HRW, p. 2.

- 48 AI, p. 6, para. 52.
- 49 HRW, p. 2.
- 50 HRW, p. 4; AI, p. 5, para. 35.
- 51 Alkarama, p. 3 ; JS1, para. 20.
- 52 JS8, p. 16.
- 53 ALKARMA, p. 6.
- 54 JS8, p. 17.
- 55 JS3, para. 36.
- 56 JS1, para. 32.
- 57 JS2, p. 11.
- 58 JS5, p. 15.
- 59 JS8, p. 7.
- 60 JAI, para. 3.
- 61 ESOHR, p. 9.
- 62 ADF, para. 6.
- 63 ADF, para. 16.
- 64 ADF, para. 29b.
- 65 ADF, para. 29d.
- 66 ADF, para. 29e.
- 67 JS9, p. 2.
- 68 HRW, p. 3.
- 69 JS5, para. 15 ; AI, p. 5, para. 34 ; HRW, p. 3; JS1, para. 32.
- 70 ESOHR, p. 9.
- 71 JS1, para. 29.
- 72 JAI, para. 1.
- 73 CFam, para. 18.
- 74 JS2, p. 11.
- 75 JS2, p. 11.
- 76 JS7, p. 7.
- 77 MAAT, p. 4.
- 78 MAAT, p. 4.
- 79 JS7, p. 7.
- 80 JS7, p. 7.
- 81 HRW, p. 7.
- 82 HRW, p. 7.
- 83 HRW, p. 7.
- 84 HRW, p. 7.
- 85 HRW, p. 7.
- 86 HRW, p. 7.
- 87 ALKARMA, p. 7.
- 88 ALKARMA, p. 7.
- 89 CFam, para. 7.
- 90 CFam, para. 6.
- 91 Broken Chalk, para. 4.
- 92 Broken Chlak, paras. 12–24.
- 93 Broken Chlak, paras. 12–24.
- 94 BAQEE, para. 7.
- 95 BAQEE, para. 19a.
- 96 BAQEE, para. 19b.
- 97 BAQEE, para. 19d.
- 98 ALKARMA, p. 9.
- 99 ALKARMA, p. 9.
- 100 JS4, p. 9.
- 101 Broken Chalk, para. 6.
- 102 HRW, p. 6.
- 103 HRW, p. 6.
- 104 HRW, p. 6.
- 105 MAAT, p. 7.
- 106 MAAT, p. 3.
- 107 ESOHR, p. 9.
- 108 JS8, p. 15.
- 109 ALQST, p. 5, para. 17.

- 110 HRW, p. 4.
  - 111 End Violence, paras. 2.1–2.8.
  - 112 MAAT, p. 7.
  - 113 MAAT, p. 7.
  - 114 Broken Chalk, para. 10.
  - 115 Broken Chalk, para. 10.
  - 116 Broken Chalk, para. 14.
  - 117 CFAM, para. 12.
  - 118 CFAM, para. 12.
  - 119 JS7, p. 7.
  - 120 JS7, p. 7.
  - 121 OKUP, para. 7.
  - 122 OKUP, para. 9.
  - 123 OKUP, para. 9.
  - 124 OKUP, para. 10.
  - 125 OKUP, para. 25.
  - 126 HRW, p. 7.
  - 127 OKUP, para. 25.
  - 128 HRW, p. 7.
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