

For Immediate Release

Saudi Activist Loujain AlHathloul's Trial Transferred to the Specialised Terrorism Court.

WORLD | 25 Nov 2020

The family of Loujain AlHathloul, a 31-year-old Saudi activist who has been imprisoned since May 2018, reported that Loujain's trial today resulted in her case being transferred to the Specialised Terrorism Court, for "lack of jurisdiction" by the Criminal Court in which Loujain has been judged since March 2019. Additionally the court said it will open an investigation with the prosecution regarding torture.

Loujain has been imprisoned since May 2018 and has been on pretrial detention for nearly three years. Her family was notified of Loujain's trial on Tuesday - just one day before and were not given time to prepare.

Loujain started a second hunger strike on 26 October to protest her prison conditions and denial of communication rights with her family and has been on a hunger strike for 29 days. After 2 weeks of hunger strike, authorities came into the prison and would wake Loujain up multiple times during the night which caused Loujain to stop her hunger strike as she was psychologically exhausted.

Loujain's family reported that she looked weak in court, that her body was shaking uncontrollably and that her voice was faint and shaky.

In August 2019, the Saudi authorities tried to force Loujain to sign a statement denying the [torture](#) she has endured in prison in exchange for her release. Loujain refused to sign the statement and has been instead kept in solitary confinement, disappeared for long periods of time (during these periods of disappearance Loujain has previously been tortured).

"We have had zero news of Loujain since 26 October. And during this time the Saudi government, instead of responding to our repeated inquiries on Loujain's health, they have blocked our requests and denied us access to Loujain. Adel AlJubeir, the Saudi Minister of

Foreign Affairs continues to spread lies about Loujain's case - in a [BBC interview](#) four days ago he claimed that the evidence against Loujain has not been presented as in the Saudi system, "evidence is presented after the verdict is rendered." Till this day, no evidence has been given. Yet Loujain was accused by the Saudi government of being a traitor and [MBS himself called Loujain a spy.](#)" It's incomprehensible that after such a long time that they just now realise that the court is not specialised. Loujain still doesn't have any evidence of the accusation. It will be nearly now three years that she has remained in pre trial detention and should be released," said Lina AlHathloul

Since 26 Oct:

Loujain's family has not seen or heard from Loujain

Brief Summary Trial Timeline (full timeline can be seen [here](#)).

- Loujain AlHathloul arrested May 2018
- 13 March 2019 - First trial session since her arrest. The judge informs Loujain of her charges.
- 28 March 2019 - Loujain meets with the judge regarding a request for temporary release - it was denied.
- 12 Feb 2020 - First trial session since March 2019. Judge informs Loujain of her charges.
- April 2020 - August 2020 - Loujain was disappeared during this time. The family had no contact with her or were allowed to visit her.
- 31 August 2020 - Loujain's family visits - she went on hunger strike for 6 days so that she could see and speak to her family.
- 26 Oct 2020 - Loujain starts a second hunger strike to protest her prison conditions and denial of communication with her family.
- 24 Nov 2020 - Loujain on day 29 of her hunger strike. Loujain's family is notified that she will have a trial tomorrow.
- 25 Nov 2020 - Loujain's case was transferred to the specialised terrorism court and the court has said it would investigate torture allegations.

ABOUT

We are family and supporters of Loujain AlHathloul whose mission is to fight for Loujain's freedom.

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