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**Press Release**

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## *Loujain AlHathloul Files Appeal in her Fight for Unconditional Freedom and Justice for Torture.*

**WORLD | 19 Jan 2021** - Loujain AlHathloul a leading Saudi women's rights activist who was sentenced on 28 December 2020 to 5 years and 8 months in prison by the Specialised Criminal Court (terrorism court) has filed an appeal on both the sentencing judgment and the so-called investigation by the criminal court on torture. In Dec 2020, the criminal court determined that no torture had taken place due to a lack of evidence. It is unclear whether the public prosecutor has filed an appeal.

As Loujain approaches nearly 1000 days in prison (8 Feb 2021) the international community at large continues to recognise her activism, legacy, and voice. On 18 January 2021, it was announced that Loujain was listed as a finalist for the [Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders](#). The Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (also known as The Nobel Prize for human rights) is an annual award given to human rights defenders from around the world who distinguish themselves by their strong commitment to promoting human rights. Loujain has also been shortlisted for the [Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize](#) by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Additionally, The International Civil Rights Center & Museum chose Loujain as their [Human and Civil Rights, 2021 TrailBlazer](#).

Alongside the numerous international recognitions, Loujain's family continues to face growing harassment and intimidation by [Saudi trolls on Twitter](#). Some of the trolls have called for Loujain's death when she exits prison. Other trolls have co-opted the #FreeLoujain hashtag and spread the kingdom's false charges of Loujain as a traitor on the hashtag. Loujain's family continues to grow concerned that Loujain will not be protected if she is released from prison in early 2021.

"We are immensely honored by the international human rights community in Europe and the United States for continuing to recognise and advocate for Loujain. Every recognition and award is incredibly meaningful not only to Loujain but to us as a family and to Saudi people in general. We hope that Loujain will one day be able to bear witness to these recognitions and it is in this spirit we will continue fighting for her unconditional freedom. After the past month in December with the fast-tracked trial, it is important to recognise that my sister is not safe both in prison or out of prison until she is unconditionally free. This means, no threat or intimidation, no risk of reprisal, no probation, no travel ban - both for Loujain and our entire family who at this time cannot leave Saudi Arabia. We hope that the international community will continue to fight alongside us as we fight for unconditional freedom," said Lina AlHathloul.

The full timeline of the Specialised Criminal Court Timeline is noted below.

### **Specialised Criminal Court Timeline:**

- **24 Nov 2020** - Saudi officials notified the family that Loujain's trial would commence tomorrow (25 Nov 2020). Loujain's parents are her legal representatives for the case, they had one day to prepare for the trial.
- **25 Nov 2020** - Loujain's case was transferred to the specialised terrorism court and the court has said it will open an investigation with the prosecution regarding torture. Loujain gave more information regarding her hunger strike (see below)
- **9 Dec 2020** - Saudi officials notified the family in the evening (with less than 24 hours notice) that Loujain's first trial session at the Specialised Criminal Court would be held the following day 10 Dec
- **1st Trial Session** - 10 Dec 2020 - The prosecution called for a maximum sentence for Loujain and changed the charges without permission or notification. All charges and changes can be seen here:  
<https://www.loujainalhathloul.org/arrest-torture-charges#trial>
- **2nd Trial Session** - 14 Dec 2020 - Loujain appeared for her second trial appearance at the Specialised Criminal Court. Loujain handed in her defense and was given the evidence against her by the prosecution which include:
  - Tweets about her involvement in the #Women2Drive campaign
  - Contacting Amnesty International to speak about the situation of activists in Saudi Arabia
  - Audio recordings of Loujain speaking about the male guardianship system.

- **3rd Trial Session** - 16 December 2020 - the judge said that he will compare Loujain's defense and the prosecutor's response. This is the first time the judge says this comparison will be done.
- **Criminal Court Hearing** - 17 Dec 2020 - During today's hearing, Loujain and her father were briefed on a secret report on the torture of Loujain. In their summary, the Public Prosecution denied the torture charges brought by Loujain, and said that prison cameras do not store photos for more than 40 days.
- **4th Trial Session** - 21 December 2020 - The SCC judge said that they are waiting for the final torture report from the criminal court (a criminal court hearing took place on 17 Dec - see timeline below) and fixed a new date for a hearing to be held on Thursday 24 Dec 2020. An additional session at the criminal court (regular court) in regards to the torture investigation is scheduled for Tuesday 22 Dec 2020.
- **Criminal Court Hearing** - 22 December 2020 - During Loujain's hearing at the criminal court today, the judge gave her a secret report concluding the "investigation" regarding her torture. He asked her to give her response to the report on the same day. He then sent his final report (in which he denies torture) to the SCC.
- **5th Trial Session** - 24 Dec 2020 - The SCC judge delayed the next hearing until Monday 28 Dec 2020 and notified Loujain and her family in court.
- **6th Trial Session** - 28 Dec 2020 - Loujain AlHathloul a leading Saudi women's rights activist was sentenced to 5 years and 8 months in prison in court today by the Specialised Criminal Court (terrorism court). The sentence includes a suspension of 2 years and 10 months in addition to the time already served (since May 2018) which would see Loujain's release in approximately two months. Loujain is also required to serve three years of probation during which time she could be arrested for any perceived illegal activity. She will also be placed on a 5 year travel ban.

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

**WEBSITE:** <http://loujainalhathloul.org/>

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