

# UK MPs, NGOs, Unions Demand Release of Bahrain Prisoner on Strike



Abduljalil Singace (R) has been on hunger strike since July in protest against his 'ill-treatment' in prison.

LONDON (Middle East Eye) – British lawmakers, trade unions, NGOs, academics, and lawyers are calling on the government to push Bahrain to release a key opposition figure who has been on hunger strike for months over his “ill-treatment” in prison.

In a joint letter addressed to Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Saturday, they accused the UK of turning a blind eye to the case of Abduljalil al-Singace.

“16 rights groups, 101 global academics, and numerous British parliamentarians have called on Bahrain, a close UK ally, to meet Singace’s demands and order his release.

“Yet despite calling for the release of prominent human rights defenders imprisoned by hostile states, the UK government has made no substantive statement, instead repeating false assurances from Bahrain about his case,” said

the statement, which has 77 signatures and was released by the office of Liberal Democrat MP Alistair Carmichael.

Since beginning the hunger strike, Singace has lost over 20kg and been hospitalized since 18 July, the letter said.

“This silence risks emboldening Bahrain in their criminalization of peaceful dissent and torture of dissidents. The UK government must condemn Bahrain’s persecution of

Singace, call for the return of his intellectual property, and immediate and unconditional release. This miscarriage of justice must end,” the letter read.

Singace launched his hunger strike on 8 July “in response to degrading treatment he was subjected to by a prison officer, to protest the restriction of being permitted to call only five numbers during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic”, rights groups said in a statement at the time.

The 59-year-old is also demanding a book he has been working on for at least four years be returned to him after it was confiscated by prison guards on 9 April.

Singace, an academic and blogger, has said the book was about linguistic diversity in Bahraini Arabic dialects and had no political content.

A decade ago, Singace was among 13 anti-government protesters who were arrested and convicted on charges that included “setting up terror groups to topple the regime”.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment and has been in prison since.

In July, rights groups reported that Singace was suffering from chronic illnesses and facing “sustained medical negligence”.

Human rights activists have been calling on the UK and the U.S. – both allies of Bahrain – to take action on Singace’s case.

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and most up-to-date equipment and thwarting enemies’ acts of mischief.

“Although the Islamic Republic of Iran has always faced the three issues of sanctions, conspiracy and threats, we have well controlled the enemies’ acts of mischief with the powerful presence of my fellow comrades at sea and the production of the best and most up-to-date equipment by the indigenous youth of the country,” he said.

Last month, the Iran’s Navy commander said the Islamic Republic stands at the forefront of the campaign to establish and promote international peace and friendship.

Iran emphasized that the Islamic Republic’s Navy can establish contact with any country that has access to water, adding that Iran seeks to “increase and strengthen friendship among countries.”

Iran has been engaged in an untiring push to reconcile the level of its defensive power with the gravity of the threats that are poised to it on the part of its enemies, most notably the United States and Washington’s regional and extra-regional allies.

Relying solely on indigenous know-how and equipment, the Islamic Republic has developed its military power into a state-of-the-art and effective defensive machine that is in the service of the country.

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being threatened by patients and community members who don’t believe COVID-19 is real.

The first known deaths from the virus in the U.S. were in early February 2020. It took four months to reach the first 100,000 deaths. During the most lethal phase of the disaster, in the winter of 2020-21, it took just over a month to go from 300,000 to 400,000 deaths.

The U.S. reached 500,000 deaths in mid-February, when the country was still in the midst of the winter surge and vaccines were only available to a limited number of people. The death toll stood about 570,000 in April when every adult American became eligible for shots.

“I remember when we broke that 100,000-death mark, people just shook their heads and said ‘Oh, my god,’” said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association. “Then we said, ‘Are we going to get to 200,000?’ Then we kept looking at 100,000-death marks,” and finally surpassed the estimated 675,000 American deaths from the 1918-19 flu pandemic.

“And we’re not done yet,” Benjamin said.

The deaths during the delta surge have been unrelenting in hotspots in the South. Almost 79 people out of every 100,000 people in Florida have died of COVID since mid-June, the highest rate in the nation.

Amanda Alexander, a COVID-19 ICU nurse at Georgia’s Augusta University Medical Center, said Thursday that she’d had a patient die on each of her previous three shifts.

“I’ve watched a 20-year-old die. I’ve watched 30-year-olds, 40-year-olds,” with no pre-existing conditions that would have put them at greater risk, she said. “Ninety-nine percent of our patients are unvaccinated. And it’s just so frustrating because the facts just don’t lie and we’re seeing it every day.”

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Muslim communities, and government policies that targeted Muslims.

Still, Elsheikh noted that Islamophobia is a phenomenon that existed even prior to the attacks in the coun-

try.

“We know that Islamophobia has a long history in the United States, and it did not emerge after 9/11,” he said during a panel announcing the survey’s results, adding that it builds on an existing framework of structural racism in the U.S.

“Islamophobia does not just impact U.S. Muslims, but U.S. society as a whole.”

While data published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has shown that hate crimes against Muslims have fallen over the last several years, rights groups have said the opposite, that Islamophobic incidents have been on the rise recently.

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), which supported the survey, said earlier this year that more than 500 anti-Muslim incidents were reported for the first half of 2021.

The incidents included attacks on individuals and mosques, which appeared to increase in May, when Israel launched a devastating 11-day assault on Gaza that killed 248 Palestinians.

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Also addressing the evening vigil was the sister of Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, a Red Crescent aid worker who was arrested in 2018 and earlier this year was handed a 20-year sentence after criticizing the Saudi leadership through an anonymous Twitter account.

“They tortured him so bad, they almost killed him. They broke his hand and smashed his fingers until they were disfigured, saying, ‘Is this the hand you tweet with?’” said his sister Areej al-Sadhan, who lives in California.

She said she was hopeful the new U.S. administration’s pressure would win her brother’s release but that changed after Biden let MBS “off the hook.”

“That’s how Saudi officials repaid President Biden’s generosity, by committing more human rights abuses,” she said.

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right to hold military exercises within their territories in line with safeguarding their national sovereignty, the Iranian foreign minister said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran does not tolerate the presence and activities of the Zionist regime against its national security and will take any necessary action in this regard.”

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani said on Friday that the Islamic Republic will definitely give a “crushing” response to enemies if they carry out any “irrational” move.

“Enemies of the Iranian nation will certainly receive a crushing response in case of any irrational and ignorant action and will incur a heavy cost,” Ashtiani tweeted.

Iran recently held military drills in the country’s northwestern border area, which was criticized by Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev said he was “very surprised” by Iran’s decision to hold drills close to his country’s borders, and questioned the timing of the maneuvers. Aliyev had also accused Iran of sending over trucks to “illegally” cross into the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is a matter of dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Iran’s Armed Forces regularly hold military maneuvers to elevate their preparedness and military prowess. The drills serve as a warning message to the enemies against any act of aggression against the Islamic Republic. Tehran has been suspicious of Azerbaijan’s links to the Israeli regime, whose supply of drones and other weapons helped Baku gain the upper hand in the war with Armenia last year.

# Report: U.S. Troops Relocate Daesh Members From Syria to Iraq

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S. military has secretly transferred Daesh families from the dangerous al-Hawl detention camp in Syria, which is run by allied Kurdish militants, to a facility in Iraq’s northern province of Nineveh, a report says.

A high-ranking Iraq security source, requesting anonymity, told Iraqi Arabic-language al-Maalomah news agency on Friday that American troops relocated scores of children and women to Jeddah camp some 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of Mosul.

The transfers took place under the supervision of authorities from the so-called Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, also known as Ro-

java.

Among them are people wanted by the Iraqi judiciary on charges of belonging to Daesh terrorist group, as well as the wives of senior commanders of the outfit responsible for terrorist attacks against security forces.

Last April, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the United States was using Daesh to impede a political solution to the decade-long crisis in Syria and supporting separatist militants in a flagrant violation of international resolutions.

Back in May last year, a number of captured Daesh terrorists confessed to close cooperation with U.S. military forces stationed at al-Tanf base in the cen-

tral Syrian province of Homs on carrying out various acts of terror and sabotage.

Several terrorists also revealed that they were instructed by American forces to target Syrian government troops in and around the ancient city of Palmyra, the Tiyas Military Airbase – also known as the T-4 Airbase, the Shaer gas field as well as nearby oil wells.

“Once a close aide to our commander Hassan Alqam al-Jazrawi came to me and said he was in contact with the Americans at al-Tanf base. The man, whose name was Hassan al-Wali, added it was necessary to target Palmyra and T4 Airbase, and that U.S. forces would provide us with

rocket launchers and machine guns, besides financial support, cars and whatever we needed,” one of the terrorists said at the time.

He added, “Americans would also launch reconnaissance aircraft to monitor the movements of Syrian army soldiers in Palmyra region, and inform us of their activities.”

The U.S. trains anti-Damascus terrorists at the al-Tanf base, which is situated near Syria’s borders with Iraq and Jordan.

Washington has unilaterally declared a 55-kilometer “deconfliction zone” around the facility, and frequently threatened to target Syrian forces within the area.

# U.S. Immigration Official Calls Afghans ‘Worms’

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Afghans who collaborated with American forces in the 20-year war on Afghanistan and were evacuated to U.S. military bases for protection have been described as “worms” by a racist American immigration official.

Media reports said on Friday that some of these Afghan evacuees who fled Afghanistan over fears of retribution by the Taliban were leaving military bases in the U.S. before being processed and relocated.

Two sources familiar with the matter said many of an unknown number of Afghan evacuees, who were brought into the United States under temporary status following the chaos of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August, are leaving the U.S. bases without ob-

taining necessary permits to live in the country.

The Afghans who had left the bases “generally” had ties to the United States, like family members of friends, and resources to support themselves, according to a statement released by a spokesperson of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Some 53,000 Afghans, who fled the Taliban on U.S. evacuation flights, had been given temporary lodging at eight locations until their relocation process is completed.

“It’s a giant can of worms,” said one U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official warned the Afghan refugees will have many legal problems with the U.S. government in the future.

# Iraqi Forces Kill Daesh Terrorists in Kirkuk

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Eight more Daesh terrorists have been killed in an airstrike in the northern province of Kirkuk, the Iraqi military say.

The Iraqi security forces conducted an airstrike on a Daesh hideout after a force from the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) tracked the terrorists and spotted their hideout in the province, Yahia Rasoul, spokes-

person of the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces, said in a statement.

The airstrike killed eight Daesh terrorists and destroyed the hideout, Rasoul said.

Over the past few months, Daesh terrorists have intensified attacks on the Iraqi security forces in the provinces Daesh previously controlled, leaving dozens

dead and wounded.

The security situation in Iraq has been improving since the Iraqi forces defeated Daesh in 2017. However, remnants of the terrorist group have since melted into urban centers, deserts, and rugged areas, carrying out frequent guerilla attacks against the security forces and civilians.