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| MDE 23/9314/2025 - Saudi Arabia - Date: 30 April 2025 |
| FURTHER INFORMATION | URGENT ACTION | x-FI UA 065/24-1 |
| Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi released from prison |
| SAUDI ARABIA |

On 13 February 2025, 47-year-old teacher Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was released from prison in Saudi Arabia after over two years of imprisonment following an unfair trial before the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC). Asaad bin Nasser Al-Ghamdi was arrested on 20 November 2022 and initially sentenced to 20 years in prison on 29 May 2024, later reduced to 15 years, solely for social media posts criticizing the government’s Vision 2030 programme and expressing condolences for the death in prison of a prominent human rights defender.

On 13 February 2025, 47-year-old teacher Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was released from prison in Saudi Arabia after more than two years in prison following an unfair trial before the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC).

Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was arrested on 20 November 2022 following a raid on his home. According to trusted sources, he was held in solitary confinement for the first three months of his detention. He suffers from epilepsy and was denied adequate healthcare in detention for his condition, according to trusted sources. He was also denied legal representation for the first 9 months of his detention, during which he was interrogated without a lawyer in violation of his fair trial rights. He was later provided with a state-appointed lawyer who refused to meet Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi before court sessions to prepare for his defence.

On 3 October 2024, the appeals chamber of the SCC resentenced Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi to 15 years in prison, followed by a 15-year travel ban, solely on the basis of his social media posts on X (formerly Twitter) criticizing government policies and expressing condolences for the death in prison of prominent human rights defender and founding member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), Abdullah al-Hamid.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi’s ordeal is a reminder of the continued threats and lengthy prison terms faced by individuals in Saudi Arabia who voice critical views of the government online.

Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi is the brother of Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi, a 56-year-old Saudi retired teacher sentenced to 30 years in prison on trumped-up terrorism charges solely for expressing criticism of the authorities on X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube. Amnesty International continues to call on Saudi authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi and all those unjustly detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

**No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**