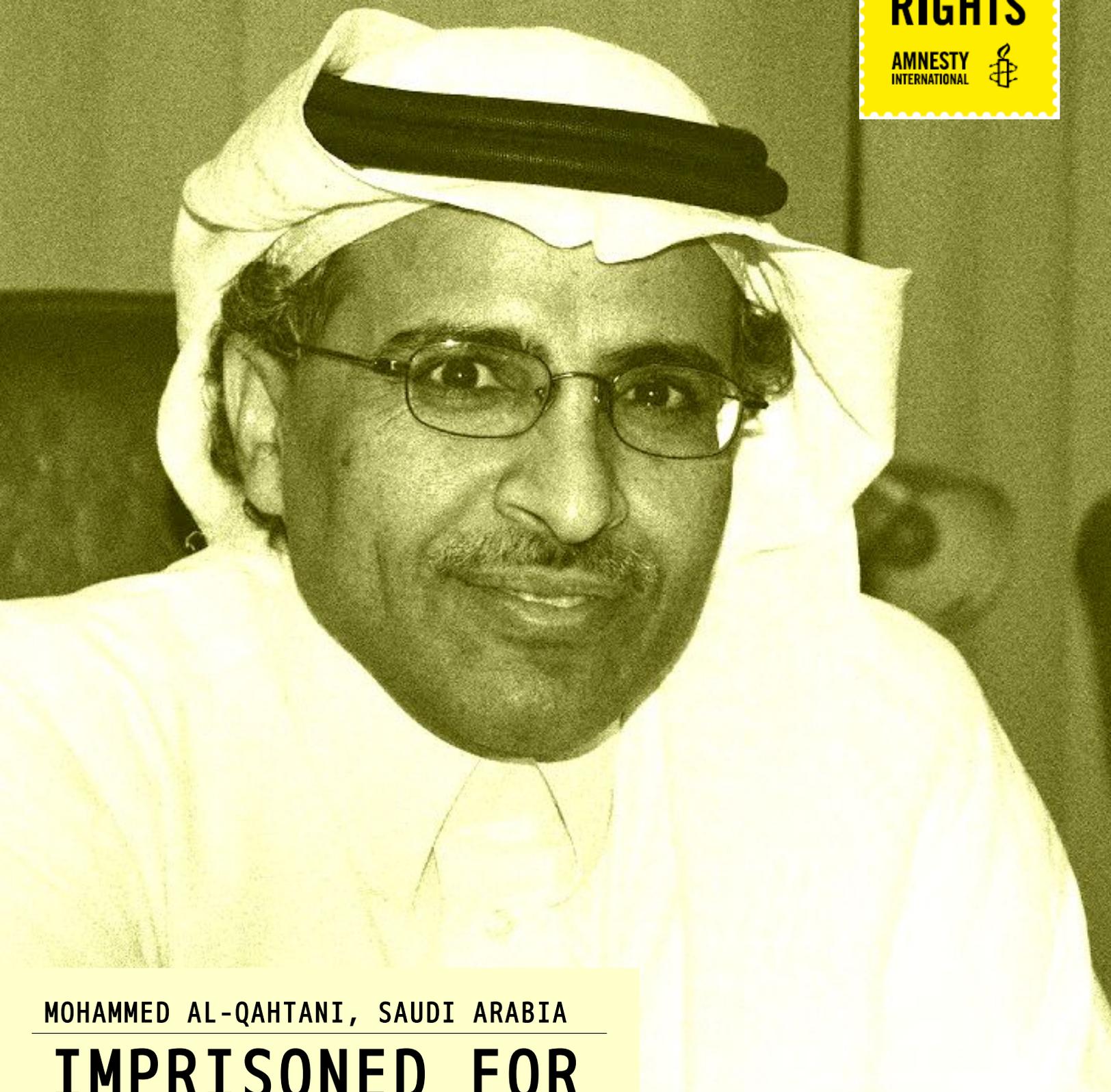


**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



MOHAMMED AL-QAHTANI, SAUDI ARABIA

**IMPRISONED FOR
FOUNDING AN NGO**

MOHAMMED AL-QAHTANI, SAUDI ARABIA

Dr. Mohammed al-Qahtani is a brilliant legal scholar and a co-founder of the Saudi Association for Civil and Political Rights (ACPRA). ACPRA became one of the most prominent of the very few independent human rights organizations in Saudi Arabia. It reported on human rights violations and deficits of the criminal justice system.

Since 2001, the Saudi Arabian authorities have increased their assault on human rights activists in the name of security and counter-terrorism. Thousands have been arrested and detained; most are held in complete secrecy. Many are held in solitary confinement during months of interrogation and have been denied access to a lawyer, adequate medical attention and family visits. Several detainees have reported torture and other illtreatment. Court trials are typically conducted in secret and produce arbitrary sentences of up to 30 years in prison. The authorities do not tolerate criticism of the state, and they systematically suppress political parties, trade unions, and human rights organizations. A long-standing ban on demonstrations was re-confirmed in 2011.

In 2013, Mohammed al-Qahtani was sentenced to at 10 years in prison on vague and arbitrary charges: breaking allegiance with the ruler, questioning the integrity of officials, inciting disorder by calling for demonstrations, disseminating false information, and forming an unlicensed organization.

One fellow co-founder of ACRPA, Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid, who was convicted at the same time, sadly died in prison in April 2020 due to inadequate health care. There is concern for the health and well-being of Dr. Mohammed al-Qahtani as well.

Tell Saudi Arabia to free Mohammed al-Qahtani now.

WRITE TO THE AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

Tell her free Mohammed al-Qahtani and other human rights defenders immediately and unconditionally.

Princess Reema Bandar al-Saud
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Email: saudiusemb@mofa.gov.sa

Salutation: Your Royal Highness