



[Saudi Dissidents Continue to Face Harsher Penalties for Criticizing the Government](#)

Saudi Arabia has long been known for its harsh punishments and oppressive policies, but recent events have shown that the situation is only getting worse. Those who dare to criticize the government now face much heavier consequences than before, with charges based on even minor Twitter remarks resulting in jail terms ranging from 15 to 45 years. One such example of these extreme punishments is Mr. Almadi, a retired project manager and Saudi-American dual citizen residing in Florida. Despite being an ordinary citizen with no activist leanings, his tweets critical of the Saudi government were used as evidence against him when he was detained while on vacation in Saudi Arabia. He was ultimately sentenced to 19 years in jail, a punishment that his family says is completely unwarranted.

The effects of Saudi Arabia's oppression are felt far beyond just those who are directly targeted. The country has been undergoing seismic shifts in recent years, with ambitious plans to diversify the economy and lift social and religious prohibitions that were long considered oppressive. While these changes are welcome, they are also being used as a way to silence criticism of the government. As one Saudi official told *The New York Times*, the government is examining ways to improve human rights and the judiciary system. However, the reality is that Saudi Arabia maintains a zero-tolerance stance on dissent and anyone who dares to speak out risks being punished severely. It is more likely that they are using to promise of reform to blunt some of the criticism they receive from the international community for their actions. The tactics employed by the Saudi Arabian government have a chilling effect on those who criticize the government and can discourage others from speaking out. When people see that others are being punished excessively for even minor criticism of the government, they may be less likely to take the risk of speaking out themselves.

This can lead to a climate of fear and self-censorship, which we are feeling from those wanting to speak out for justice. People are hesitant to express their opinions or even ask questions about government policies. This lack of free conversation can make holding the government responsible and addressing concerns difficult. Furthermore, when people are silenced in this way, it can create a sense of isolation and helplessness. Those who the government has targeted may feel that they have no recourse or any way to fight back against the injustice they have experienced, just like we have seen in multiple instances as of late, including that of Mr. Almadi. This often leads to feelings of frustration, anger, and despair. Ultimately, the silencing of critics by the Saudi Arabian government is not only a violation of their fundamental human rights, but it also has a negative impact on the country as a whole.

The Saudi Arabian government's oppressive policies have been going on for too long, and it is time for the international community to take action. The world cannot sit idly by while people are being silenced and jailed for expressing their opinions, a fundamental human right. The Saudi government's actions are not only a violation of their citizens' basic rights but are also a clear attempt to suppress dissent and criticism. By turning a blind eye to this oppression, the international community is enabling the Saudi

government to continue these abusive practices with impunity. This not only harms the citizens of Saudi Arabia, but it also sends a message to other governments that such behavior is acceptable. If the United States wants to promote democracy and human rights around the world, we must take a strong stand against this kind of oppression. The international community must act to pressure the Saudi government to change its policies and respect the basic human rights of its citizens. Countries that have close ties with Saudi Arabia, such as the United States, must use their influence to push for change. One way in which the U.S. can enact its influence is to end, or at the very least put conditions on, its arms sales to Saudi Arabia. It's time for the international community to recognize that Saudi Arabia's oppressive policies are not just an internal matter, but a global concern. We cannot ignore the abuse of power and violation of basic human rights that are taking place in Saudi Arabia. We must take action to protect the rights of all people, including critics of the government. The world must unite to ensure that the voices of those who speak out against oppression are heard and that the Saudi government is held accountable for its actions.