

# **British Embassy Riyadh**



British Embassy  
Riyadh

## **Information Pack for British Prisoners in Saudi Arabia**

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## Introduction

### Who can help?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO):

The FCO is represented overseas by its Embassies and Consulates (High Commissions in Commonwealth Countries). Both employ consular officers, and one of their duties is to provide help and advice to any British National who gets into difficulty in a foreign country.

### About the Embassy

We are impartial; we are not here to judge you. We aim to make sure that you are treated properly and fairly in accordance with local regulations, and that you are treated no less favourably than other prisoners.

We can answer questions about your welfare and about prison regulations but you must ask your lawyer or the court about legal matters. The attached list of lawyers is provided by the British Embassy for your convenience, but neither Her Majesty's Government, nor any official of the Consulate, take any responsibility for the competence or probity of any firm/advocate on the list or for the consequence of any legal action initiated or advice given.

We cannot get you out of prison, pay fines or stand bail or interfere with local judicial procedures to get you out of prison nor secure you an earlier trial date; we cannot investigate a crime.

We have tried to make sure that the information in this booklet is accurate and up to date, but the British Embassy cannot accept legal responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information. If in doubt contact a lawyer.

## **Who are the Consular Representatives?**

### **RIYADH**

Fatima Abdulkader (Vice Consul, Riyadh)

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### **Working Hours Riyadh**

Sunday – Thursday 08.00 – 15.00

### **Working Hours Jeddah**

Sunday – Thursday 08.00 – 15.00

Embassy Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-riyadh>

## **FIRST STEPS**

### **Who will know I have been detained?**

It is essential that you or someone on your behalf inform the British Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible after your arrest. It is your right to do so. When a British National is arrested and detained in Saudi Arabia the authorities must inform the British Embassy but they may not do so for several weeks. We may be informed much more quickly by your sponsors, friends or relations. We aim to make contact with you within 24 hours of being

notified of your arrest or detention, but we are frequently not informed by the authorities as quickly as this.

In some cases, we must obtain permission from the Saudi authorities before we can contact you.

### **What will my family be told?**

For reasons of confidentiality we are not permitted to tell anyone that you have been detained or what the charges are without your permission. The British Embassy must have your permission to discuss your case, or to confirm your detention with anyone.

However, should you wish to inform your family, we can make contact with them through our colleagues in the FCO in London. We can give your family or next of kin advice on prison procedure, regulations, and how you are doing. We can also pass on any messages from you.

### **What will the Embassy or Consulate do?**

We aim to make contact with you within 24 hours of being notified of your arrest.

If you have no money, Your friends and family can transfer money to you via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. . Payments by Postal Order, Bankers Draft or Building Society cheque should be crossed and make payable to "The Foreign and Commonwealth Office". They should be sent to:

Accounts Receivable  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Corporate Service Centre  
PO Box 6108  
Milton Keynes  
MK10 1PX

We recommend that you use Recorded or Special Delivery.

Please ensure that you include a note briefly explaining who the money is for and why. (Alternatively you may use the payment slip on next page.)

If you would like a receipt, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

#### **Electronic Bank transfers.**

Payment by electronic/internet bank transfer can be made either using online or telephone banking, or at your local bank or building society.

For all bank transfers, you will need to include the following details:

Bank:	National Westminster Bank
Account Name:	FCO Multi Vote
Sort Code:	60-70-80
Account Number:	10012362

Reference: FCO **case reference number, surname and first name of the person** you are sending the funds for, plus country name if possible, e.g. 11-THB-123456 SMITH JOE - THAILAND *or* CON-1234 SMITH JOE – THAILAND

IBAN GB56NWBK60708010012362  
SWIFT/BIC NWBKGB2L

You may also need our bank address which is:  
National Westminster Bank, Government Banking, CST PO Box 2027, Parkland, De Havilland Way, Howich, Bolton, BL6 4YU

### **Would I have a criminal record in the UK?**

You should be aware that if you have been convicted for certain serious offences, such as sexual assault or drugs trafficking, we are obliged to inform the UK police. It is therefore possible that information about this offence may appear if a Criminal Records Bureau check were carried out by a prospective employer.

## **Visits**

### **How do my family and friends arrange a visit?**

It will be possible for your family or friends to visit you if you at the following times:

<b>For Men</b>	<b>For Women</b>	<b>Visiting Times</b>
Saturday	Sunday	After Asr prayer - Maghrib Prayer. (3.30pm – 5.00pm)
Tuesday	Thursday	After Asr prayer - Maghrib Prayer. (3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Family or friends will need to contact the prison manager in advance to obtain permission to visit. Calls should be from 8.00am to 2.30pm. For the ladies prison, generally only family members are allowed. Other visitors (work colleagues and friends) may be allowed if they obtain a letter from the British Embassy seeking visit permission on their behalf.

### **What can visitors bring?**

Anything apart from medicines and food are allowed i.e. clothes, money, basic toiletries, and books. Prison management will need to send any medicine to the prison's clinic for verification.

### **How many visits can I have?**

You can be visited twice a week. In the ladies prison you can have four visits: two from your female relatives and friends and two from your male relatives and friends.

### **Consular Visits**

Consular staff will keep in regular contact with you, either by visiting personally or by telephone. The frequency of the visits will depend on the local prison conditions and your personal circumstances.

## **Prison conditions/services**

### **Arrival at police station**

If you are arrested your sponsor, or a Saudi National, may be able to arrange for you to be released under the Saudi equivalent of bail. When the Embassy is informed of your arrest we immediately make contact with your employer or sponsor to make sure that they are taking the necessary steps to secure your release on bail. The Embassy is not able to provide a bail guarantee for you. However, you should be aware that this procedure normally takes some time.

If the Governor's Office, or the "EMAARA", recommends that your case be sent to court, you may transfer to prison to await trial. We aim to visit you every three months, unless there are reasons to visit more frequently. However, permission to visit a prisoner requires the permission of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and this can take some time to obtain.

### **General prison conditions**

Prison conditions in Saudi Arabia are relatively good. You will receive three meals a day and you may also buy additional food from the prison grocery store to supplement your diet. Your cell will be air-conditioned in summer and heated in winter and you will be provided with a mattress and a blanket. In some prisons, the accommodation is underground so you may have limited access to sunlight and fresh air. You will have reasonable access to shower and toilet facilities and drinking water in a communal area. You will be able to purchase toiletries or have them brought in. You will not have a prison uniform so changes of clothing are allowed, which you must provide yourself. Medical treatment is available at the prison clinic. Doctors and outside specialists make regular visits to the prison. You may request a visit to a doctor if you are unwell.

There are two types of prisons: normal and security prisons, and there are separate prisons for men and women. The security prisons are located in remote areas and can be in different cities. If you have been convicted for a security case, the Saudi authorities may move you several times into different prisons around different cities.

## **Prison rules**

Some prisoners find the mental pressure of imprisonment harder to deal with than the physical confinement. If you break the prison rules you risk being punished, including being put in solitary confinement - although this happens less often to Westerners. Fighting is a punishable offence, as is drug or alcohol taking or dealing. There have been reports that complaints about ill treatment are not taken seriously by prison officials. If you feel you have a justified complaint, you should let a Consular representative know at the earliest opportunity.

Islam influences all aspects of Saudi life, including attitudes to crime and punishment, especially drug and alcohol taking. Islamic ritual and prayer are as much a part of daily life in prison as outside. During Ramadan both prisoners and guards go all day without eating, drinking or smoking. Tempers can be short, so take extra care not to get drawn into any disagreements.

Depression troubles some prisoners. Feelings of isolation are normal, especially if you don't speak Arabic. The lack of mental stimulation, and facing up to a long sentence can affect your mental state.

When you have a Consular visit it is up to you to explain exactly how you are feeling, mentally and physically. If you have a serious medical condition that has been ignored by the prison authorities you should let the visiting Consular officer know. We can raise this with the prison authorities.

## **How can I receive money?**

Your friends and family can transfer money to you via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London. Your family can contact the FCO on **0207 008 0192** or **0207 008 0169** for more information on this.

## **Can I work or study in prison?**

The opportunities to work or study in prison are limited. Some prisoners find occupation in the prison hospital or laundry and studies may include Arabic lessons or the Qu'ran.

## **Can I receive medical and dental treatment?**

You will be able to access medical and dental treatment, which for less serious ailments will be provided in the prison. For more serious issues, you may be treated in a local hospital or dental surgery.

## **Food and Diet**

You will receive a meal three times a day which is usually chicken and bread. Fruit and vegetable servings are infrequent. Water is available out of the tap, though prisoners

generally buy their own from a makeshift commissary if they can afford it. Tap water has been known to carry sickness-causing bacteria.

### **Mail/Parcels**

You can receive and send mail but it must pass through the prison censor. Letters can be sent via the Embassy or Consulate to be brought in on visiting days. The Embassy no longer accepts parcels due to abuse of the system in the past. Any received will be returned to the sender.

You can have clothing and cigarettes sent to you at the prison. Magazines, books and newspapers are permitted, though they will be looked at and may be heavily censored. Nude pictures are strictly forbidden.

Although you are allowed to write in English, letters are subject to censorship. Prisoners Abroad can supply you with International Freepost envelopes so that you can write to your friends and family without having to pay for postage.

### **Can I make telephone calls?**

It is possible to make local telephone calls, with limits on when, where to and for how long. Telephone calls to family and friends in the United Kingdom must initially be authorised by the prison authorities who may only allow such a call perhaps once a fortnight, and limit it time to five or ten minutes. It can take some time for the prison authority to approve the right to overseas calls. Prisoners have to purchase a telephone card from the prison shop to make calls.

### **Leisure and entertainment**

Prisoners have access to a shared television, although this is only usually tuned to two channels – football and the local news in Arabic. Other leisure and entertainment options are severely limited.

### **How can I make a complaint about mistreatment?**

If you experience harassment, threats or violence you should report it to the Consular staff as soon as possible. Consular staff can raise any allegations of mistreatment with the prison authorities if you would like them to do so. Previous experience is that just the suggestion that you will be reporting to the Embassy can make a positive difference to how you are treated.



## The Saudi Judicial System

### Is the system the same as the UK?

The Saudi judicial system is not the same as the UK. Islam is the state religion and the Saudi criminal law is based on Sharia law and is divided into two sections: Public Right and Private Right.

The Private Right section of the law allows an individual to claim restitution from another person if they are injured (either physically or materially) as a result of the accused actions. It also gives the injured persons legal heirs the right to either claim or waive the right to claim compensation or the imposition of the death penalty.

The Public Rights section of the law is the area of law that allows the judicial authorities to pursue and prosecute an individual suspected of committing a criminal act.

Civil 'Private Right' cases are bail-able but Criminal 'Public Right' cases are not. A person accused of a Private Right offence would be asked to provide either a financial guarantee or an appearance guarantee, or both.

### What about judicial corporal punishment?

Criminal law punishments in Saudi Arabia include public beheading, stoning, amputation and lashings. Serious criminal offences include not only internationally recognized crimes such as murder, rape, theft and robbery, but also apostasy, adultery, witchcraft and sorcery. In addition to the regular police force, Saudi Arabia has a secret police, the Mabahith, and "religious" police, the Mutawa. The Saudi courts impose a number of severe physical punishments. The death penalty can be imposed for a wide range of offences including murder, rape, armed robbery, repeated drug use, apostasy, adultery, witchcraft and sorcery and can be carried out by beheading with a sword, stoning or firing squad, followed by crucifixion.

### What can we do if you have been subject to corporal punishment?

We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances. If you are facing a charge that carries the death penalty, or if you have been sentenced to death, we will normally raise your case at whatever stage and level we judge to be appropriate. We can also put you in touch with the charity Reprieve ([www.reprieve.org.uk](http://www.reprieve.org.uk)), who work to prevent the execution of any British national detained overseas.

We also oppose corporal punishment in all forms. Lashes can often form part of the sentence for offences involving drugs and alcohol. Consular staff will discuss how we can raise your case if your sentence includes lashes.

We can explain to you how you may be able to apply to transfer to a prison in the UK. We have attached a leaflet called '[Transfers home for prisoners abroad](#)' with more details.

The local authorities often have a policy of deporting foreign nationals after they have completed a prison sentence and we cannot prevent them from doing this, even if you had previously lived in Saudi Arabia before your prison sentence.

You should be aware that if you are arrested for certain serious offences, such as child sex abuse or drugs crimes, our staff must tell other relevant UK authorities.

### **Is there a jury system in Saudi courts?**

There are no jury trials in Saudi Arabia. The judicial establishment is composed of quads, who give binding judgments in specific court cases, and muftis and other members of the ulema, who issue generalized but highly influential legal opinions (fatwas). The Grand Mufti is the most senior member of the judicial establishment as well as being the highest religious authority in the country; his opinions are highly influential among the Saudi judiciary. The judiciary proper (that is, the body of qadis) is composed of about 700 judges.

### **What should happen when I am arrested?**

Once the Police have made an arrest they send a report to the Governor's office, which should include a statement made by the defendant. The investigation will usually be held at the Investigation and Prosecution Unit. The prisoner will then be transferred to a public prison until the Governor's office will reach a decision. This can take several months. If the charges related to a political or terrorism act, the prisoner may be transferred to a security prison.

The Governor's office has four options which it may choose to enforce:

- a) It can ask the defendant to sign a letter stating that the offence will not be repeated, after which he will be released. This letter will usually be signed in the police station where the person is being held
- b) It can recommend immediate deportation;
- c) It can recommend that the prisoner be brought before a Sharia court for trial and sentencing; or

d) It can pass the file on to the Ministry of Interior for a decision to be made as to how the case should proceed through the Saudi judicial process.

If the Governor's office does not see the offence as being particularly serious they can recommend that the police allow the defendant to be released into his/ her employer or sponsors custody against receipt of a guarantee letter. If such a release is permitted the **defendant is not allowed to leave Saudi Arabia until the case is finalised (this process can take one to two months)**. If the Governor's office decides that the case is serious it will instruct the police to transfer the prisoner from the Police station to the local prison to be held pending a court appearance.

### **For how long can I be remanded in custody?**

Initially an arrested person should be detained for no more than 24 hours. But an investigating officer can submit an application to the Governor's office for a further period of detention up to a maximum of five days. The General Prosecution Board may extend this period of detention up to a maximum of six months.

If the alleged crime is serious the Governor's office can refer the case to the Ministry of Interior or the Public Prosecutor's office at any time and they may authorise the continued detention of a person for a period not exceeding six months. Should the alleged charge be in relation to a security-related matter then a person may be held for up to a year or more without charge while investigations are being made

### **What happens when I am charged?**

If you are arrested your sponsor or a Saudi National may be able to arrange for you to be released under the Saudi equivalent of bail. When the Embassy is informed of your arrest we immediately make contact with your employer if you are resident in Saudi Arabia or your Saudi sponsor if you are a visitor, to make sure that they are taking the necessary steps to secure your release on bail. This procedure can take some time.

### **What kind of legal assistance is available?**

Consular staff cannot give legal advice, but they can provide you with a list of local lawyers, some of whom speak English. They can also give you details of 'Prisoners Abroad' which is a UK based charity who may be contacted for further information on court proceedings and local lawyers. As in any country, some lawyers are better than others - including those who charge fees.

If you do have to pay, it is wise to agree a flat fee for the whole case before starting or you may find yourself facing 'extra expenses'.

### **What happens at the first hearing(s)?**

Your case will go through a set of hearings (there may be several), which are technical affairs, usually conducted by lawyers before a single judge, though the accused may be present. The only decision taken might be to set a trial date.

### **What happens at the trial?**

There is no jury system in Saudi Arabia. Trials are heard by a judge. They rely largely, and at times solely, on police reports and there is no guarantee that your pleas will be discussed. If a decision is taken by the Ministry of Interior or the Public Prosecutor's office to send an individual before a Sharia court the procedures are very different from those in the UK.

The court consists of a judge, the court clerk and a prosecutor from the Public Prosecutor's office. The Judge will read the file prepared by the Police, the Public Prosecutor's office and a statement made by the defendant. He will then ask a few questions from those involved and reach a decision. You will be allowed to have a lawyer represent you in court but he will not be allowed to cross examine witnesses or argue about statements presented by the either the police or the Public Prosecutor.

Should the Judge decide on a custodial sentence the sentence will run from the date of the arrest, not the date of your appearance in court.

### **What happens if I am sentenced?**

If you are found guilty and given a prison sentence we usually aim to visit every three months. We may visit more or less often depending on your individual circumstances. Our visits are subject to permission being obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We will explain to you how to appeal against your sentence should you decide to do so, but your lawyer would be better placed to give you the correct advice on how to proceed. In addition we may be able to draw your case to the attention of the appropriate Saudi Authorities with the request that you be considered for release under the Annual Ramadan Amnesty. (see below)

### **General Points**

Whilst the Saudi Authorities are still reaching a decision on your case our main objective is to keep your papers moving and trying to ensure that the judicial process is completed as quickly as possible. We can arrange for your next of kin to be informed of your arrest should you wish. We will keep you informed of all progress relating to your case.

The Embassy will act as a contact point between you and your family. Any monies sent by relatives from UK will be deposited by Consular officials with the officers at the 'Prison Bank',

who will in turn issue an official receipt in your favour. We will endeavour to ensure that all mail sent to you via the Embassy is given to you, once it has been passed through the prison censor.

### **How can appeals be made?**

There is a right to appeal against a sentence which must be submitted to the Appeal or “Tamyeez” Court within 30 days from the date of the written court judgement. The appeal must be submitted by the court that made the original decision. The appeal court decision is based on the records sent to them by the sentencing court. The convicted person (or his appointed lawyer) may send a written submission to the appeals court - they will not be allowed to attend in person. If you consider lodging an appeal against a sentence, it should be borne in mind that it is not uncommon for the appeal court to increase the sentence if they consider the initial sentencing Judge has been too lenient. In all cases details of the initial sentence will go to the Tamyeez court for confirmation.

Anyone sentenced to a custodial sentence is automatically deported at the end of the sentence provided there are no outstanding Private Rights issues.

### **What provision is there for reduction of sentence (remission) e.g. for good behaviour?**

Prisoners can benefit from a remission, based on good conduct, of up to 25% of their sentence.

### **Parole**

There is no parole for foreign nationals.

### **What provision is there for clemency or Royal Pardon?**

The government usually issues a clemency/pardon in the Holy month of Ramadan for some prisoners. If you are eligible for a pardon, you will be released automatically after the following rules have been applied:

Expatriate prisoners, arrested and convicted for public right with a penalty, not exceeding SR5000 are deported immediately after taking their electronic fingerprints. Your name will be added to the list of persons who are not allowed to enter the kingdom.

Expatriate prisoners arrested and convicted in the following crimes are usually excluded from being eligible for pardons:

1. Crimes against state security.
2. Premeditated murder.
3. Drug trafficking.
4. Drug dealing, for the second time and more, provided that a precedent is recorded, otherwise they shall be immediately deported.
5. Weapons and explosives.

6. Money laundering.
7. Crimes punishable by doctrinal provisions or life imprisonment.
8. Rape, kidnapping, robbery, banditry, and armed robbery.
9. Shooting security men while performing their duty.
10. Theft committed by gangs of two persons or more.
11. Offences relating to Saudi currency counterfeiting.

With the exception of crimes relating to state security, if you have served half your imprisonment period, and both the public and private rights have been settled, you may be deported.

You will not be able to leave until any private rights issues have been settled.

### **Who might be eligible to a pardon?**

Provided you have been convicted of a crime not listed above, you may be entitled to a pardon if you memorise at least two chapters of the Holy Qur'an and have served half of your sentence.

Obtaining a pardon can be costly. Expect to pay for translations, possibly extra legal fees and your airfare home. It is essential that you have access to funds to cover these costs. Your petition for pardon should be supported by letters from various people stating why you should qualify and the most important of these should be from members of your family.

Others should be from friends and past employers, plus one from either your doctor or another professional person such as a lawyer. It would also be useful to get a letter of support from your Member of Parliament in the UK. If appropriate you may request support from Prisoners Abroad. About half a dozen letters is enough, but obviously the more the better.

The process of collecting letters of support can take a long time, so allow plenty of time to do so. The letters should be written in, or at least translated into Arabic. In an emergency Prisoners Abroad may be able to help with translations. The Embassy also provides translation into Arabic for such letters, but this work cannot take priority over the other urgent tasks the Embassy translator has to deal with.

### **What should I say?**

The actual content of your petition and its supporting letters will depend upon your individual circumstances. However, you must make clear that you:

- understand the seriousness of your offence
- repent your past conduct
- long for reunion with your family, homeland and culture
- wish to lead a socially useful life in future

- will never do wrong again

Priority may be given if there are strong medical grounds for an early release, but you are advised never to criticise prison conditions, even if they are making your health worse.

### **When should I apply?**

It is best to send your petition for a pardon to the King one to two months before an important Islamic event such as occasions of religious importance i.e. during the two Eid festivals when the King may grant pardons to prisoners.

You will normally have to pay off all fines before you are released from prison, unless you have been granted a Royal Pardon in which it is written that you do not have to do so.

### **Is transfer to another prison within Saudi Arabia possible?**

Yes, if the Saudi Prison Service, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign/Interior affairs and local prison directors authorise the transfer. If you have been convicted you will be allocated to a prison to serve your sentence. Transfers to other prisons are only permitted when there are exceptional compassionate, medical or safety reasons for doing so. If you are interested in a transfer, please speak to the Embassy who can raise your request in writing with the Saudi authorities.

### **Is transfer to the UK a possibility?**

Saudi Arabia and the UK government have signed a Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) which came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012

### **Should you transfer back?**

It can be difficult to decide whether you will be better off transferring back to the UK or not. Below are some of the advantages and disadvantages of transfer that people have indicated to us, which we hope will help inform you to make the right decision. The various points made here are explained in greater detail elsewhere in this factsheet.

### **Advantages**

- Conditions in UK prisons may be better, and you may be moved to an open prison.
- There may be less violence or drug use in UK prisons than there is in prisons in many other parts of the world. Depending on where you are currently detained, your personal safety and well-being may be increased.
- UK prisons offer work, training and educational opportunities, although these can be limited in some prisons. These may help to pass the time in prison, and more importantly, help you prepare for release.
- You are likely to be closer to family and friends which may make visits easier.

- Your family may be eligible for financial assistance to visit you in prison in the UK through the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme (APVS).

### **Disadvantages**

- Depending on where you are currently detained, the prison regime may be stricter than the one you are used to, with longer periods spent in cells.
- There can be a delay in information from the overseas authorities being provided to the UK and this can delay categorisation.
- If the time you have to serve in the UK is relatively short, you may be kept in Wandsworth or Holloway and not transferred to another prison in the UK.
- Due to the way that the “balance to serve” is calculated (which can be based on the Hijri calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar), you are likely to serve more time than people who were convicted for a similar offence in the British system.
- Depending on where you serve your sentence, you could still find yourself far away from friends and family, but the Offender Management Unit (OMU) at Wandsworth will try to transfer you nearer your family if it is possible.

### **How are transfers arranged?**

The UK Government has signed international agreement that allow British prisoners to be transferred from certain countries to the UK, including Saudi Arabia. A prisoner must apply for transfer; it will not be forced upon him, nor is it something that will be offered on a routine basis. There are conditions that need to be met.

### **Conditions for Transfer**

- The Prisoner must be sentenced and a British national.
- You must agree to the transfer, or if you are not able to represent yourself, consent must be given by your legal representative or other person authorised to act on your behalf.
- The judgement is final and no other legal proceedings relating to the offence or any other offence committed by you are pending in the transferring State.
- You must have at least 6 months of the sentence to serve at the time the request for the transfer is made, although a request may be considered if you have less than 6 months to service but this is in exceptional circumstances only.
- The transferring and receiving States should both agree to the transfer
- You should have paid off, or guaranteed to pay off, all sentenced financial obligations, private or public, to the satisfaction of the transferring State.

### **Is there an automatic right to transfer back to the UK?**

No. Even if you apply for a transfer, either country can refuse an application. You may write to the relevant organisations responsible for your application and request the reasons for the

refusal, but there is no obligation for them to tell you why your application to transfer has been refused.

### **Will I have a criminal record in the UK if I don't transfer?**

Many British people in prison overseas are under the mistaken impression that, if they remain in the country where they were detained and complete the sentence there, there will be no record of their sentence or conviction in the UK.

Scotland Yard will definitely be informed of your case if you do transfer back, and your police record will show that you have served time in a UK prison. However, it is highly probable that the UK authorities will be aware of your detention abroad regardless of whether you transfer back to a UK prison or not, and there is a possibility that your overseas conviction will show up in checks when applying for jobs etc.

Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, all prisoners are required to declare their convictions if asked to do so, even if the offence was committed overseas, unless the conviction is "spent" after a certain period of time has passed. Prisoners Abroad has produced a fact sheet giving further information about this Act.

### **What are the procedures for release and deportation?**

Independent governments have the general right to decide which non-citizens are to be permitted to live within their territory and, therefore, the right to deport or exclude any of them in accordance with their own laws.

International practice is not to deport any person except to the country of which they are a national or to a country where they are acceptable. But international practice is also to consider carefully each case on its merits. Cases involving deportation to a country where there is a possibility that the deportee's safety or liberty would be jeopardised on political grounds are also considered on their merits.

The Saudi Local authorities are not obliged to advise consular staff of impending deportations.

### **After your release**

Sometimes people find that a new set of problems arises once they have left prison. You may find yourself ready for life on the outside but not prepared for living in the UK. Possibly you have never lived in Britain and have no ties there, or perhaps you have lost touch with friends and family. You may simply want to talk to another person who understands what you have been through to help work out what to do next.

When you first arrive back in Britain you can visit Prisoners Abroad (see address below) on weekdays between 10 am and 4 pm for advice, to take a shower, use the temporary luggage store, make essential phone calls or use a computer.

Prisoners Abroad has two resettlement workers who can help you with applications for emergency accommodation, welfare benefits and referrals to specialist agencies. If you have no belongings Prisoners Abroad may be able to help with basic toiletries and finding suitable clothing. If you know your release date in advance it is best to write and tell your caseworker when you are likely to arrive and what help you think you might need. If you have no money and nowhere to go, PA's Aftercare Service can help with:

- Advice on finding emergency accommodation in the London area
- Applying for welfare benefits, including emergency benefit payments if you are destitute.  
making appointments with doctors and dentists
- Putting you in touch with local agencies if you are not returning to the London area.

## Prisoners Abroad

Prisoners Abroad  
89 – 93 Fonthill Road  
London N4 3JH  
UK

**Telephone:** 00 44 (0)20 7561 6820 or, for your relatives in the UK, Freephone 0808 172 0098

(Mondays to Fridays 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, UK time)

**Email:** [info@prisonersabroad.org.uk](mailto:info@prisonersabroad.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.prisonersabroad.org.uk](http://www.prisonersabroad.org.uk)

Since 1978 the charity Prisoners Abroad has offered practical support and advice to British citizens imprisoned overseas. It is the only UK charity providing this service and it is available to all, whether guilty or innocent, convicted or on remand. Prisoners Abroad is concerned with your health and welfare, both during your imprisonment and also on your return to the UK, through their resettlement service (if you have registered whilst in prison). They can also provide support and advice to your family during your imprisonment. In order to access any services, prisoners must first register with Prisoners Abroad by signing and returning their authorisation form.

Once you seek help from Prisoners Abroad, the Prisoner & Family Support Service will be your point of contact for advice and information. The type of assistance they can offer will vary from country to country, but generally they can provide you with information, in English, on:

- your rights as a prisoner and issues that may affect you such as health or transfer to the UK
- obtaining magazines, newspapers, books and the regular Prisoners Abroad newsletter
- writing to a pen pal
- learning the language of your country of imprisonment
- translation of documents
- grants for food if you are in a developing country and don't have funds from other sources
- grants for essential medicines and toiletries if you don't have funds from other sources
- preparing for release
- help for your loved ones, including information, family support groups and assistance with the cost of visiting

## Glossary of Terms

### Useful English/Arabic words

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
Amnesty / Pardon	Afou
Appeal	Isti'inaf
Application form	Istimarah
Bathroom	Hammaam
Blanket	Battaniya
Blood test	Fahes dam
Book	Kitaab
Case	Kadiya
Case number	Rakam al Kadiya
Central Prison	Al Sejin Al Markazi
Clinic	Eyadda
Complaint	Shakwa
Court	Mahkama
Deportation	Tarheel
Deposit	Amanat
Doctor	Tabeeb
Embassy	Safara
Federal Supreme court	Al Mahkama Al Itihadiya
Food	Ta-Aam
Guilty	Mouthnib
Hearing session	Jalsat Al Mahkamah
Indictment	Al Touhma
Innocent	Baree'
Interpreter	Moutarjem
Jail	Sejin
Judgement	Mouhakama
Lawyer	Mouhami
Library	Maktaba
Money	Feloos
No Problem	Ma fi Moushkila
Notary	Kateb Adel
Plaintiff	Al Moudaii
Police	Shurta
Power of attorney	Wakala
Prison Director	Mudir Al Sejin
Prison rules	quaneen Al Sejin
Problem	Mushkila
Prosecutor	Niyaba

<b>Release</b>	<b>Efracj</b>
<b>Security</b>	<b>Amn</b>
<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Oukouba</b>
<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Al Hokom</b>
<b>Sharia'a Court</b>	<b>Al Mahkama Al Shariaa</b>
<b>Sick</b>	<b>Mareed</b>
<b>Soap</b>	<b>Saboon</b>
<b>Telephone call</b>	<b>Moukalamat telephone</b>
<b>The Accused</b>	<b>Al Mutaham</b>
<b>To buy</b>	<b>Ashtary</b>
<b>Tomorrow</b>	<b>Boukra</b>
<b>Visit</b>	<b>Zieyara</b>
<b>Ward number</b>	<b>Rakam Al Anbar</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>Maa'</b>
<b>Witness</b>	<b>Shahed</b>
<b>Prisoners Transfer Agreement</b>	<b>Itifaqyat Tahweel Al Sujanaa</b>
<b>Murder</b>	<b>Qatel</b>
<b>Extradition</b>	<b>Tasleem</b>
<b>One</b>	<b>Wahed</b>
<b>Two</b>	<b>Ithnan</b>
<b>Three</b>	<b>Thalatha</b>
<b>Four</b>	<b>Arbaa</b>
<b>Five</b>	<b>Khamsa</b>
<b>Six</b>	<b>Sitah</b>
<b>Seven</b>	<b>Sabaah</b>
<b>Eight</b>	<b>Thamaniyah</b>
<b>Nine</b>	<b>Tesaah</b>
<b>Ten</b>	<b>Asharah</b>

## **Annexes**

[Annex 1: List of English-Speaking Lawyers](#)

[Annex 2: List of Private Translators/Interpreters](#)

[Annex 3: FCO leaflet: \*In prison abroad\*](#)

[Annex 4: FCO leaflet: \*Transfers home for prisoners abroad\*](#)

[Annex 5: Prisoners Abroad authorisation form](#)

[Annex 6: Prisoners Abroad family contact form](#)

[Annex 7: Prisoners Abroad CFF form](#)

[Annex 8: Fair Trials International questionnaire and leaflets](#)

[Annex 9: Reprieve information](#)

## **Disclaimer**

This booklet was compiled by [the Consular Section, British Embassy Riyadh]. It is revised on a regular basis.

If any of the information contained in this booklet is incorrect, please draw inaccuracies to our attention so that we can make amendments.

The British Embassy in Riyadh is not accountable for the information provided in this booklet. Local proceedings are subject to change at any time.

Thank you.