

## Kuwait: Charge brought against human rights defender Mohamed Al-Ajmi

4 September 2020

On 23 August 2020, human rights defender **Mohamed Al-Ajmi** was summoned by the Cybercrimes Unit in Kuwait and was detained for two days. The Public Prosecution charged the human rights defender with ‘insulting religion’.

[Mohamed Al-Ajmi](#) is prominent blogger and a member of the National Committee for Monitoring Violations (NCMV) which documents violations of freedom of expression in Kuwait. He advocates for the human rights of the Bedoun. The term Bedoun, meaning 'without' in Arabic, refers to the community of stateless persons, native to Kuwait, who are not allowed to obtain any official state documents.

On 23 August 2020, the human rights defender was summoned by the Cybercrimes Unit in Kuwait. Upon his arrival he was interrogated for a short period of time and was subsequently detained for two days by the public prosecutor. The public prosecution charged Mohamed Al-Ajmi with ‘insulting religion’ regarding a tweet he posted. The human rights defender was permitted to contact his family during the second day of his detention. On 25 August, he was released on a bail of 500 Kuwaiti Dinars (approximately 1380 Euros). The human rights defender believes that the charge brought against him is a reprisal for his peaceful activities in defending human rights in Kuwait.

Mohamed Al-Ajmi has been frequently harassed and charged by the authorities. He is also facing the charge of ‘defamation, insulting and slandering’ related to other cases opened against him by the Public Prosecution during the last few years. In August 2014, the human rights defender was [detained](#) for ten days and charged with ‘blasphemy’ regarding a tweet that criticised Kuwaiti authorities for the practice of withdrawing citizenship. This charge was subsequently dropped.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned regarding the detention and the charge against human rights defender Mohamed Al-Ajmi. Front Line Defenders believe that these charges are a result of his peaceful and legitimate human rights work.

### Front Line Defenders calls the Kuwaiti authorities to:

1. Immediately drop all charges against Mohamed Al-Ajmi, as it is believed that they are solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
2. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Kuwait and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.

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