# British analyst detained in Saudi Arabia over deleted tweet faces secretive trial and family hardship



A British citizen is facing an uncertain future after being detained in Saudi Arabia due to a now-deleted tweet. Ahmed al-Doush, a senior business analyst at Bank of America, was arrested on 31 August 2024, at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh while he was preparing to return to the UK with his family. His arrest has raised significant concerns regarding human rights and due process in the Kingdom, especially as he has been held without clear communication about the charges against him.

Ahmed, who resides in Manchester with his wife Amaher Nour and their children, has endured the pain of not being present for the birth of his fourth child, Youssef, in December. His wife was pregnant at the time of his arrest, having been told that his detention was merely a visa issue. Once Nour and their children arrived in Manchester, they received heartbreaking news of his imprisonment, highlighting the abrupt and distressing nature of their separation.

The circumstances surrounding Ahmed's arrest are particularly troubling. Reports indicate that he is being charged under Saudi Arabia's stringent terrorism and anti-cyber crime laws, primarily for posting about the war in Sudan—his homeland—and potentially for his associations with a prominent Saudi dissident's son. Human rights organisations like Amnesty International have condemned his detention, calling for his immediate release. Their sentiments are echoed by other civil liberties groups and legal experts who assert that the Saudi authorities have not publicly justified the actions taken against him.

Compounding the family’s distress, Ahmed has reportedly been denied access to a lawyer for over two months and has been held incommunicado, raising serious questions about violations of international law pertaining to due process. His lawyer, Haydee Dijkstal, insists that under international law, detainees have the right to be informed of the charges against them and to have legal representation—a right that Ahmed has been denied. Dijkstal further emphasises that the lack of transparency surrounding the case starkly contrasts with fundamental legal principles.

Facing immense legal and emotional turmoil, Ahmed's family is struggling financially due to his ongoing detention. As he was working on short-term contracts, his arrest has plunged them into financial insecurity, with his wife having to rely on food banks to provide for their children during this difficult time. The UK’s Foreign Office has indicated that they are aware of the case; however, officials have consistently cited legal protections as reasons for their limited involvement in the proceedings. The Foreign Office has stated that while they are in contact with the relevant Saudi authorities, they cannot interfere with another nation's legal processes.

Recent discussions between the UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, and Saudi officials have brought Ahmed's case into the diplomatic spotlight, although the details of those discussions remain largely undisclosed. The Foreign Office's response to Ahmed's case has drawn criticism, particularly from his family and advocacy groups who feel that the UK government should take a more proactive stance in securing his release.

As Ahmed prepares for court hearings, which have been sparsely documented and largely shrouded in secrecy, concerns over his treatment and the legal framework being applied to his case continue to mount. His detention not only raises alarm for the family but also for British citizens contemplating travel to Saudi Arabia, as many human rights advocates argue that cases like Ahmed’s reflect a broader crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression in the Kingdom.

Ultimately, the unresolved plight of Ahmed al-Doush serves as a glaring reminder of the complexities and challenges surrounding justice in authoritarian contexts, leaving his family in a state of uncertainty and fear for the future.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: Source 1, Source 2
2. Paragraph 2: Source 1
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14700785/British-citizen-Saudi-Arabia-jail-deleted-Tweet-arrested-airport.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.ft.com/content/6beb0f86-6100-4361-b629-2894c2a74820> - Ahmed al-Doush, a British business analyst, has been detained in Saudi Arabia since August 2024. He faces charges under terrorism and anti-cyber crime laws for a deleted social media post and alleged association with a Saudi dissident. His legal team argues his detention is unjustified, and a verdict is expected in April 2025. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have condemned his detention, calling for his release. Saudi authorities have not publicly commented on the case. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/6beb0f86-6100-4361-b629-2894c2a74820?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/06/foreign-office-refused-to-give-us-details-about-briton-jailed-in-saudi-family-say> - The family of Ahmed al-Doush, a British national detained in Saudi Arabia, reported that the UK Foreign Office refused to provide information about his situation for over two months. Al-Doush was arrested on August 31, 2024, and has been held without charge. He has been denied access to a lawyer and consular assistance, and his wife gave birth to their fourth child without his presence. The Foreign Office stated they are supporting the detained British man and are in contact with his family and local authorities. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/06/foreign-office-refused-to-give-us-details-about-briton-jailed-in-saudi-family-say?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/british-business-analyst-arbitrarily-detained> - Amnesty International reports that Ahmed al-Doush, a British business analyst, has been arbitrarily detained in Saudi Arabia since August 31, 2024. He was arrested at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh while returning to the UK after a family visit. Al-Doush was held incommunicado and reportedly in solitary confinement for 33 days, denied UK consular assistance and legal representation for over two months. The charges against him are related to a deleted social media post and alleged association with a Saudi critic in exile. Amnesty International calls for his immediate and unconditional release. ([amnesty.org.uk](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/british-business-analyst-arbitrarily-detained?utm_source=openai))
* <https://taj-rights.org/uk-government-silence-deepens-the-ordeal-of-british-citizen-arbitrarily-detained-in-saudi-arabia/> - The Together For Justice organization highlights the case of Ahmed al-Doush, a British citizen detained in Saudi Arabia since August 31, 2024. Al-Doush, a senior analyst at Bank of America, was arrested without charge while preparing to return to the UK after a family visit. His family reports that he was interrogated about a low-profile tweet concerning Sudan and alleged ties to the son of a Saudi opposition figure. The UK government's response has been passive, citing data protection laws as a reason for withholding information about his condition. The organization calls for urgent action to secure his release and protect his rights. ([taj-rights.org](https://taj-rights.org/uk-government-silence-deepens-the-ordeal-of-british-citizen-arbitrarily-detained-in-saudi-arabia/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://amnesty.ca/urgent-actions/saudi-arabia-free-arbitrarily-detained-british-analyst/> - Amnesty International Canada reports on the case of Ahmed al-Doush, a British national detained in Saudi Arabia since August 31, 2024. Al-Doush was arrested at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh while returning to the UK after a family visit. He was held incommunicado and reportedly in solitary confinement for 33 days, denied UK consular assistance and legal representation for over two months. The charges against him are related to a deleted social media post and alleged association with a Saudi critic in exile. Amnesty International calls for his immediate and unconditional release. ([amnesty.ca](https://amnesty.ca/urgent-actions/saudi-arabia-free-arbitrarily-detained-british-analyst/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://reprieve.org/uk/2025/03/22/british-father-detained-in-saudi-arabia-at-risk-of-the-death-penalty/> - Reprieve reports that Ahmed al-Doush, a British father detained in Saudi Arabia, is at risk of the death penalty. Al-Doush was arrested on August 31, 2024, while returning to the UK from a family holiday in Saudi Arabia. His lawyers believe he is being sentenced under terrorism and anti-cyber crime laws for a deleted social media post and perceived association with a Saudi dissident. The details are unclear because they have not seen any documentation. Al-Doush is at risk of the death penalty amid a soaring execution crisis in the Kingdom. Reprieve's head of MENA, Jeed Basyouni, stated that incidents like this suggest it is not safe for Britons to travel to Saudi Arabia. ([reprieve.org](https://reprieve.org/uk/2025/03/22/british-father-detained-in-saudi-arabia-at-risk-of-the-death-penalty/?utm_source=openai))