

# Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman

I was asked to represent Waleed Abu al-Khair in February of 2015. Due to the obvious risk posed to Saudi lawyers who might be willing to represent Mr. Abu al-Khair, he sought U.S. counsel to advocate on his behalf and signed over power of attorney to me. Recently, as I planned to visit my new client, the Saudi Embassy denied my personal visa application. Despite the intervention of U.S. Department of State officials on my behalf, the Saudi government continues to deny Waleed a basic due process right and allow him to meet his attorney face-to-face.

While Saudi officials can deny me access to Waleed, they cannot deny the facts of his case. Waleed's summary conviction was unjust. His conduct was non-violent, and as a son of Saudi Arabia, his only desire was to participate in building a sustainable, fair and just society in which he could raise his daughter free from intimidation and thought control. The conditions of his incarceration are barbaric. Now, during the holy month of Ramadan when pardons and amnesties are often issued, the monarchy should focus its wrath on violent Islamists who do indeed threaten the stability of the country and not on those, like Mr. Abu Al-Khair and Raif. Badawi, who seek to contribute to the future of Saudi Arabia through peaceful and respectful discourse and legal advocacy. These peaceful advocates of human rights should be pardoned and released from prison immediately.

I will continue to promote the goals of my client Mr. Abu Al-Khair and hope that democracy-loving countries around the world will insist that Saudi Arabia release those peaceful advocates of freedom and human rights who are only a threat to tyrannical despots too afraid to engage in rational discourse.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Arshack  
Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman