Advocacy dossier

Aisha Salman Al-Alaiwat

عيشة سليمان العليوات

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **Jordan**

Aisha Salman Al-Alaiwat, known as Rima Al-Abbadi, is a 71-year-old Jordanian sports journalist who criticised the management of Jordanian sport online. Deported from Egypt while travelling for cancer treatment, she was imprisoned on 9 July 2026 to serve two years and two months under the Cybercrime Law, and no release has been reported.

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The case at a glance

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Status **Imprisoned (serving sentence)**	Arrested **9 Jul 2026**	Country **Jordan**
Sentence Two years and two months in prison (final judgment, July 2026)		
Charges Offences under Jordan's Cybercrime Law over online posts criticising the Jordan Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth (specific offences not published; about 50 cases reported)		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Aisha Salman Al-Alaiwat immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

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How the case unfolded

April 2026

Dismissal or expulsion

Jordan Press Association upholds her expulsion

The Jordan Press Association announced that it had upheld a disciplinary decision to expel her and had removed her from its register. It did not disclose the reason.

May 2026

Forced return or rendition

Detained in Egypt and deported to Jordan while travelling for cancer treatment

While travelling to Russia via Egypt for cancer treatment, she was detained by the Egyptian authorities under an international arrest warrant and deported to Jordan. A rights platform cited on 9 July 2026 said this happened about 40 days earlier.

July 2026

Final judgment

Sentenced to two years and two months under the Cybercrime Law

She was sentenced to two years and two months in prison under Jordan's Cybercrime Law over content published online that criticised the performance of the Jordan Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth and the role of Princess Zeina, wife of Prince Faisal, in sport. SKeyes described the judgment as final. The court and the exact date of the judgment have not been published.

9 July 2026

Deprivation of liberty

Imprisoned to serve the sentence

The Jordanian authorities placed her in prison on 9 July 2026 to enforce the sentence of two years and two months. She is 71 years old and under treatment for cancer; SKeyes described her health as delicate.

14 July 2026

Other act

CPJ asks the authorities and the press association to account for the case

The Committee to Protect Journalists called on the Jordanian authorities and the Jordan Press Association to give a full and transparent public account of the case. CPJ said it had been unable to review the material in question, that early news reports of her detention had been deleted, and that its requests for comment had received no reply.

3 August 2026

Other act

Women Journalists Without Chains reports about 50 cases linked to her posts

Women Journalists Without Chains said she faces about 50 criminal cases, all linked to social media posts criticising the Jordan Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth, and raised concern over her imprisonment while under cancer treatment after her forced return from Egypt.

30 September 2026

Other act

CIVICUS Monitor records her imprisonment; no release reported

The CIVICUS Monitor cited her case as an example of detention used in retaliation for online expression in Jordan. It reported no release, and no later source found reports one.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Aisha Salman Al-Alaiwat, known professionally as Rima Al-Abbadi, is believed to remain in prison in Jordan, serving a sentence of two years and two months imposed under the Cybercrime Law over her posts on sports administration. She is 71 and under treatment for cancer. No release has been reported.

Background and Work

Aisha Salman Al-Alaiwat is a Jordanian sports journalist who writes under the name Rima Al-Abbadi. In recent years she published commentary on digital platforms criticising the administrative and financial management of Jordanian sport, in particular the performance of the Jordan Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth and the role of Princess Zeina, wife of Prince Faisal, in the sports sector. According to a post by an Arabic-language commentator and a report by the feminist platform Sharika wa Laken, she had been living in Georgia.

In April 2026 the Jordan Press Association announced that it had upheld a disciplinary decision to expel her and had removed her from its register. The association did not disclose the reason for the decision.

The Arrest

In the spring of 2026 she set out from Georgia for Russia to receive cancer treatment, travelling through Egypt. The Egyptian authorities detained her under an international arrest warrant and deported her to Jordan. The rights platform Ahrar, quoted by Sharika wa Laken on 9 July 2026, said the deportation had taken place about 40 days earlier, which would place it around late May 2026, and that it prevented her from completing her treatment.

On 9 July 2026, according to the Samir Kassir Eyes Center (SKeyes), the Jordanian authorities placed her in prison to enforce a final judgment sentencing her to two years and two months.

Detention Conditions and Health

She is 71 years old and has cancer. SKeyes described her state of health as delicate and sensitive, and Women Journalists Without Chains noted that she was undergoing cancer treatment when she was returned from Egypt. No information has been published on the prison where she is held or on the medical care she receives there.

Legal Proceedings

According to the CIVICUS Monitor and the Committee to Protect Journalists, she was sentenced in July 2026 under Jordan's Cybercrime Law to two years and two months in prison in connection with content published on digital platforms. The court, the date of the judgment and the specific offences have not been made public. Women Journalists Without Chains and the platform Ahrar reported that she faces about 50 cases, all linked to posts criticising the Jordan Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth. Women Journalists Without Chains gave the sentence as two years and one month in its English statement and two years and two months in its Arabic statement. CPJ said it had been unable to review the posts and that the first news reports of her detention had since been deleted.

Her case forms part of wider prosecutions under the Cybercrime Law adopted in 2023, which has been used against other journalists in Jordan, including Hiba Abu Taha.

International Response

On 14 July 2026 the Committee to Protect Journalists called on the Jordanian authorities and the Jordan Press Association to give a full and transparent public account of the case. Its Levant Program Coordinator, Joud Hasan, said that when cases involving journalists are shrouded in secrecy, public confidence in judicial institutions is weakened. CPJ said its requests for comment to the Jordanian Media Commission and the press association went unanswered. The Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK raised the case, and on 3 August 2026 Women Journalists Without Chains included it in a statement on arbitrary detentions in Jordan, alongside the case of the activist Firas Al-Tawahieh Al-Abadi. The CIVICUS Monitor documented the case on 30 September 2026.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/aisha-salman-al-alaiwat/

HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement is a non-governmental organisation documenting the situation of human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. This file is based on the public record of the case in the defenders archive.Status as recorded on 2026-07-09. To report an error: archive@humena.org