

Advocacy dossier

Hiba Abu Taha

هبة أبو طه

Detained (pretrial) **Jordan**

Hiba Abu Taha is a Palestinian-Jordanian journalist who served a one-year prison sentence under Jordan's Cybercrime Law over an article published in 2024. She was arrested again on 3 March 2026 over social media posts, sentenced to two years in prison, and is listed as imprisoned.

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The case at a glance

Hiba Abu Taha is a Palestinian-Jordanian journalist who served a one-year prison sentence under Jordan's Cybercrime Law over an article published in 2024. She was arrested again on 3 March 2026 over social media posts, sentenced to two years in prison, and is listed as imprisoned.

Status **Detained (pretrial)**	Arrested **3 Mar 2026**	Country **Jordan**
Sentence Two years in prison under the Cybercrime Law (2026).		
Charges Inciting discord and strife among members of society, Articles 15 and 17 of the Cybercrime Law (2024 case) Publishing material that could incite sedition or discord or threaten social peace, Article 17 of the Cybercrime Law (2026 case)		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Hiba Abu Taha 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.

02

How the case unfolded

14 March 2020

Arrest warrant issued

Arrest ordered over a 2012 interview

Amman Public Prosecutor Hassan al-Sarhan ordered her arrest on charges of slander and undermining the government over statements she gave to The Associated Press in 2012 during a protest against fuel price rises. She was briefly held and released on bail. She told SKeyes she believed the case was a reprisal for a question she had put to Prime Minister Omar Razzaz in July 2019 about an alleged corruption scandal.

15 March 2020

Pretrial detention ordered

Ordered detained for 14 days

When she returned to the prosecutor's office, he ordered her detained for 14 days at the Juweideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre for Women in Amman.

16 March 2020

Release on bail ordered

Released on bail

She was released on bail the following day.

13 May 2024

Arrest

Arrested over an article on Jordan's role during Iranian strikes

Security forces arrested her over an April 2024 article published by the Lebanese website Annasher, which alleged that Jordan allowed companies to ship goods to Israel through a land bridge during the war in Gaza. She was held in the Juweideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, and the prosecutor refused her lawyer's request for bail.

11 June 2024

Conviction

Sentenced to one year under the Cybercrime Law

The Amman Magistrate's Court sentenced her to one year in prison under the Cybercrime Law on charges of inciting discord and strife among members of society.

23 June 2024

Appeal: judgment upheld

Appeal court upholds the sentence without a hearing

Her lawyer appealed and the appeal court upheld the verdict and sentence on the same day without a hearing, making the ruling final.

13 October 2024

Conviction

Fined in a second Cybercrime Law case

The North Amman Court fined her 5,000 Jordanian dinars for again violating the Cybercrime Law over two Annasher reports on Jordan's role in supporting Israel.

13 February 2025

Release

Released after completing her sentence

She was released after completing her one-year sentence and paying the 5,000-dinar fine.

2026

Conviction

Sentenced to two years in prison

A court in Amman sentenced her to two years in prison under Article 17 of the Cybercrime Law for publishing material that could incite sedition or discord or threaten social peace. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights said the trial did not meet minimum fair-trial standards and that her lawyer was prevented from presenting his arguments. The centre lists her as imprisoned.

3 March 2026

Re-arrest

Arrested again over a Facebook post

The authorities arrested her over a Facebook post.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Hiba Abu Taha was arrested again on 3 March 2026 over a Facebook post and sentenced to two years in prison under the Cybercrime Law. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights lists her as imprisoned; no report of an appeal ruling or release has been found.

Background and Work

Hiba Abu Taha is a Palestinian-Jordanian journalist based in Amman. She has written for Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Al Jazeera's blogs and the investigative website Daraj, and in 2019 she worked for the local broadcaster Jordan Today. Her reporting has often been critical of the Jordanian government.

Her first prosecution came in March 2020. On 14 March the Amman Public Prosecutor, Hassan al-Sarhan, ordered her arrest on charges of slander and undermining the government over statements she had given to The Associated Press in 2012, during a protest against fuel price rises, in which she called for a change of government. On 15 March he ordered her detained for 14 days at the Juweideh women's prison, and she was released on bail on 16 March. She told the Lebanese press freedom centre SKeyes that she believed the real reason was a question she had put to Prime Minister Omar Razzaz in July 2019 about an alleged corruption scandal.

The Arrest

In April 2024 the Lebanese website Annasher published her article "Partners in genocide: Jordanian capital involved in genocide in the Gaza Strip", which alleged that Jordan allowed companies to ship goods to Israel through a land bridge. Security forces arrested her on 13 May 2024 (CPJ gives 14 May). The Gulf Centre for Human Rights says the case followed a complaint by the Amman Public Prosecutor in the name of public law; MENA Rights Group says the complaint came from the Jordanian Media Commission.

After her release in 2025 she was arrested again on 3 March 2026 over a Facebook post. According to SKeyes and Women Journalists Without Chains, the posts concerned Iranian missile attacks and Jordan's interception of the missiles.

Detention Conditions and Health

In 2024 she was held in the Juweideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre for Women. The prosecutor refused bail, and a further bail request was denied on 28 May 2024. Her lawyer told CPJ that she had no health problems in custody. No information has been published on her conditions of detention since March 2026.

Legal Proceedings

On 11 June 2024 the Amman Magistrate's Court sentenced her to one year in prison under the Cybercrime Law for inciting discord and strife among members of society, citing Articles 15 and 17. Her lawyer appealed, and on 23 June 2024 the appeal court upheld the verdict on the same day without a hearing. On 13 October 2024 the North Amman Court fined her 5,000 Jordanian dinars in a second Cybercrime Law case over two Annasher reports on Jordan's role in supporting Israel. She was released on 13 February 2025 after serving the sentence and paying the fine.

In the 2026 case a court in Amman sentenced her

to two years in prison under Article 17 of the Cybercrime Law for publishing material that could incite sedition or discord or threaten social peace. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights dates the verdict to 19 March 2026 at the Amman Criminal Court, while SKeyes dates it to 2 April 2026 at the Amman Magistrate's Court. The centre said the trial fell short of minimum fair-trial standards and that her lawyer was prevented from presenting his arguments.

International Response

The Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders, the International Press Institute, PEN America, MENA Rights Group and the Gulf Centre for Human Rights all documented the 2024 case; RSF described the Cybercrime Law of 2023 as draconian. In April 2026 Women Journalists Without Chains said the new two-year sentence signalled a wider crackdown under the law, and the Gulf Centre for Human Rights has included her in its campaigns for imprisoned women human rights defenders and against Jordan's Cybercrime Law.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/hiba-abu-taha/

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