

Advocacy dossier

Mohammed Al-Barghash

محمد البرغش

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **Kuwait**

Mohammed Al-Barghash is a stateless Bedoon rights defender in Kuwait who has been prosecuted repeatedly for his advocacy. Detained since 11 June 2025, he was sentenced on 28 July 2025 to three years in prison over posts about the agency handling Bedoon affairs, and is listed as imprisoned.

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The case at a glance

Mohammed Al-Barghash is a stateless Bedoon rights defender in Kuwait who has been prosecuted repeatedly for his advocacy. Detained since 11 June 2025, he was sentenced on 28 July 2025 to three years in prison over posts about the agency handling Bedoon affairs, and is listed as imprisoned.

Status **Imprisoned (serving sentence)**	Arrested **3 Sep 2023**	Country **Kuwait**
Sentence Three years in prison (Criminal Court, 28 July 2025); under appeal according to GCHR		
Charges Broadcasting false news and undermining the prestige of the state (posts on X about the Central Agency for Illegal Residents' Affairs, 2025) State security offences (Public Prosecution, 11 June 2025) Spreading false news, harming the state's reputation and misusing a telephone device (2023 case; sentence quashed by the Court of Cassation)		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Mohammed Al-Barghash 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

26 July 2021

Summons

Summoned by State Security over his activism

The State Security Apparatus summoned him for investigation over his peaceful human rights activities.

7 February 2022

Arrest

Detained after a sit-in at Al-Irada Square

After taking part in a civil society sit-in at Al-Irada Square, opposite the National Assembly, where he handed out leaflets calling for a gathering on Bedoon rights in Taima, he was arrested by four members of the Criminal Investigation Directorate and taken to Salhiya police station. His phones were confiscated. He was released about two hours later after signing a pledge not to distribute leaflets in Kuwait.

28 March 2022

Hunger strike begins

Open-ended hunger strike for Bedoon rights in Sulaibiya

He and five other defenders of Bedoon rights began an open-ended hunger strike opposite Sulaibiya police station, demanding that the civil and human rights of Bedoon residents be respected and their cause resolved fairly.

14 April 2022

Hunger strike ends

Hunger strike suspended

As spokesman for the strikers, he announced at a press conference that the strike was suspended after achieving its goals, and said it could resume if the government and political forces did not follow through.

31 August 2022

Arrest

Detained with other Bedoon defenders after a prosecution summons

The Public Prosecution summoned 14 Bedoon human rights defenders. He presented himself voluntarily and was detained, together with Fadel Farhan Saket, Basil Atallah Zain and Abdullah Fayrouz Abdulkarim.

15 September 2022

Release on bail ordered

Released on bail

A judge released him on bail of 300 Kuwaiti dinars, as well as the three other defenders held with him.

3 September 2023

Arrest

Arrested at his workplace in Jahra

In the evening, State Security officers arrested him at his workplace in Jahra Governorate under a Public Prosecution warrant, and he was held in Central Prison pending investigation. GCHR reported that he was taken blindfolded and handcuffed for interrogation and later needed hospital treatment.

27 October 2023

Acquittal

Acquitted at first instance and released

The Court of First Instance acquitted him of all charges, including spreading false news, and he was released after 55 days in Central Prison. The prosecution appealed.

31 January 2024

Appeal outcome

Court of Appeal sentences him to three years and he is jailed

The Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal and sentenced him to three years in prison with hard labour on charges of spreading false news, harming the state's reputation and misusing a telephone device. Amnesty International linked the charges to an interview he gave a foreign broadcaster about the situation of the Bidun. He was taken to Central Prison.

21 December 2024

Appeal: judgment quashed

Court of Cassation quashes the sentence; released after about a year

The Court of Cassation acquitted him of spreading false news on social media and overturned the three-year sentence. He was released after about a year in prison.

14 May 2025

Acquittal

Acquitted on appeal in a case brought by the Central Apparatus

The Court of Appeals upheld his acquittal in a separate case on charges of spreading false news and insulting employees of the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' Affairs, which had filed the complaint.

2 June 2025

Interrogation

Questioned by State Security over a request to meet the Interior Minister

On 12 May 2025 he had posted on X his request to meet the Interior Minister, which criticised 15 years of failure by the Central Apparatus. State Security summoned him, questioned him at Abdullah Al-Mubarak police station and referred him to the Public Prosecution.

11 June 2025

Pretrial detention ordered

Charged with state security offences and detained in Central Prison

He appeared before the Public Prosecution, was charged with state security offences and was ordered detained in Central Prison pending trial.

28 July 2025

Conviction

Sentenced to three years in prison

The Criminal Court sentenced him to three years in prison for broadcasting false news on his X account about the Central Agency for Illegal Residents' Affairs, finding that he had undermined the prestige of the state. GCHR reported that the sentence was appealed. As of its latest profile, GCHR lists him as imprisoned.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Mohammed Al-Barghash has been detained since 11 June 2025 and was sentenced on 28 July 2025 to three years in prison over posts about the agency that handles Bedoon affairs. GCHR lists him as imprisoned; no public report on the outcome of his appeal was found.

Background and Work

Mohammed Al-Barghash is a member of Kuwait's stateless Bedoon community and a defender of its rights. He founded and heads the National Bloc of Kuwaiti Bedoons and is based in Taima, in Jahra Governorate. Amnesty International describes him as a human rights defender working on the situation of the Bidun, who are denied citizenship and face discrimination in access to health care, education and employment.

On 7 February 2022 he joined a civil society sit-in at Al-Irada Square, opposite the National Assembly, and handed out leaflets for a gathering on Bedoon rights in Taima. Criminal investigation officers detained him for about two hours and released him after he signed a pledge not to distribute leaflets. On 28 March 2022 he and five other Bedoon defenders began an open-ended hunger strike opposite Sulaibiya police station; as spokesman he announced on 14 April 2022 that it was suspended after achieving its goals.

The Arrests

The State Security Apparatus first summoned him over his activism on 26 July 2021. On 31 August 2022 he was among 14 Bedoon defenders summoned by the Public Prosecution; he presented himself and was detained with Fadel Farhan Saket, Basil Atallah Zain and Abdullah Fayrouz Abdulkarim, and all four were released on bail of 300 dinars on 15 September 2022.

On 3 September 2023 State Security officers arrested him at his workplace in Jahra. He was acquitted at first instance on 27 October 2023 and released after 55 days, but on 31 January 2024 the Court of Appeal sentenced him to three years with hard labour and he returned to Central Prison. The Court of Cassation overturned that sentence on 21 December 2024, and he was released after about a year.

On 12 May 2025 he posted his written request to meet the Interior Minister, criticising 15 years of failure by the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' Affairs. State Security questioned him on 2 June 2025, and on 11 June 2025 the Public Prosecution charged him with state security offences and ordered him held in Central Prison.

Detention Conditions and Health

GCHR reported that after his 2023 arrest he was taken blindfolded and handcuffed for interrogation and later needed hospital treatment. Its profile of him records denial of access to a lawyer and of family visits and calls, and states that the authorities once raided his home and arrested his wife in front of their children. No recent information on his health has been published.

Legal Proceedings

The 2023 to 2024 case concerned charges of spreading false news, harming the state's reputation

and misusing a telephone device; Amnesty International linked it to an interview he gave a foreign broadcaster about the Bidun. A separate complaint by the Central Apparatus, on charges of false news and insulting its staff, ended in acquittal, upheld by the Court of Appeals on 14 May 2025. He also received a one-year suspended sentence in another case.

On 28 July 2025 the Criminal Court sentenced him to three years in prison for broadcasting false news on X about the Central Agency for Illegal Residents' Affairs, holding that he had undermined the prestige of the state. GCHR reported that the sentence was appealed.

International Response

Amnesty International issued an urgent action in February 2024, stating that he would be a prisoner of conscience if imprisoned, and cited his 2025 sentence in its annual report on Kuwait. GCHR has repeatedly called for his immediate and unconditional release, and the CIVICUS Monitor reported in December 2025 that he had been jailed again.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/mohammed-al-barghash/

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