

# URGENT ACTION

## SYRIAN REFUGEE AT RISK OF DEPORTATION

On April 9, 2024, Jordanian security forces arrested Syrian refugee, Atiya Mohammad Abu Salem, while he was on his way to film pro-Gaza protests in Amman. His lawyer was told that the authorities issued a deportation order for him to Syria, and he remains in detention at a security center. Syria is not safe for returns, and if deported, he would be at risk of serious human rights violations. International law requires that the Jordanian authorities must immediately halt his deportation order and release him so long as he has not been charged with a recognized crime, in which case he should be charged and given all due process rights.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 32.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

**His Excellency Mazin Abdallah Hilal Al Farrayeh**  
**Ministry of Interior**  
Arjan Area Behind Regency Hotel  
PO Box 100 Amman -11118  
Amman, Jordan  
Twitter: [@moi\\_jor](#)

**Jordanian Embassy in the United States**  
**Her Excellency Ambassador Dina Kawar**  
3504 International Drive, NW,  
Washington DC 20008  
Email: [hkjconsular@jordanembassyus.org](mailto:hkjconsular@jordanembassyus.org)

Your Excellency,

I am concerned for **Atiya Mohammad Abu Salem**, a Syrian refugee, who is at the imminent risk of deportation. Atiya is a Syrian journalism student and freelance videographer, who sought refuge in Jordan 12 years ago.

On April 9, 2024, Security forces arrested Atiya Mohammad Abu Salem while he was on his way to film a pro Gaza protest in the vicinity of the Israeli embassy in al-Rabieh in Amman. Security forces did not inform Atiya of the reasons for his arrest and interrogated him in the absence of a lawyer. According to his lawyer, Atiya was subjected to several human rights violations, including threatening him with deportation and forcing him to unlock his phone for inspection. Atiya was not referred to a judicial body and was not charged with any crime. However, his lawyer was told that the authorities issued a deportation order for him.

I urge you to ensure that Atiya Mohammad Abu Salem is not deported to Syria and that he be released or appropriately charged with a crime and provided with full due process rights, including access to a lawyer and the ability to challenge his detention. Returning him to Syria would violate the international principle of non-refoulement, which is non-derogable in relation to a risk of torture, and states that governments should not, under any circumstance, deport persons to places where they may be at risk of torture and other serious human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Deportations in Jordan fall under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and by law are implemented through a governor's office. Articles 32 and 37 of Law No.24 of 1973 on Residence and Foreigners' Affairs, allow the governor or the Minister of Interior to expel foreigners for their "illegal presence." Article 19 of the same law allows the Minister to cancel a foreigner's residency permit without justification. According to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Jordan is party to, no State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

Amnesty International documented how Syrian authorities specifically target people who fled the country upon their return to Syria, subjecting them to torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance. As such, Amnesty International opposes returns to Syria in all cases except where they are voluntary.

Since October 7, 2023, the Jordanian authorities have arrested at least 1,500 people, including around 500 detained since March following huge protests outside the Israeli Embassy in Amman in March.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English, Arabic, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** June 13, 2024.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Atiya Mohammad Abu Salem (He/his).