



Their Royal Highnesses The Duke & Duchess of Sussex
Clarence House
London SW1A 1BA
United Kingdom

Your Royal Highnesses,

We write to you in relation to your upcoming visit to Morocco about victim of arbitrary detention [Ahmed Aliouat](#) who is being wrongly detained in Morocco on a life sentence. We would like to request that you raise Ahmed's detention with the Moroccan authorities during your trip.,

In 2017 21-year-old Ahmed Aliouat was sentenced to life imprisonment in Morocco, simply for talking to people in the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria on Facebook, and faces the rest of his life in prison.

In August 2018 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, released their opinion that Mr Aliouat is a victim of arbitrary detention.

Amongst other things the group accepted that the Moroccan authorities tortured Mr Aliouat in order to extract a 'confession' and that these factors deprived him of his right to a fair trial.

Following their opinion, the Working Group recommended Morocco immediately release Mr Aliouat, ensure he has the right to obtain compensation for this gross injustice and give him a guarantee of non-repetition. They also recommended Morocco conduct a comprehensive investigation into Mr. Aliouat's arbitrary deprivation of liberty and take appropriate measures against those responsible.

They requested that Morocco report back to the group after six months, which would be 20-28 February 2019.

As yet, Morocco has made no moves to indicate it intends to comply with this.

This is very concerning and contrary to articles 9, 14, 19 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

If Morocco fails to do so it will both destroy the life of a young man and his family, and undermine UN human rights procedures.

I attach a [summary of the background](#) to Ahmed's case and a translation of the key points of the Working Group's opinion in English - the full version in French is available [here](#).

Thank you for your consideration. As your [visit](#) coincides with such an important time in Ahmed's case I do hope you will raise Ahmed's treatment with the Moroccan authorities during your visit.

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Sincerely,

Maria Bennington,

On behalf of International Activists For the Freedom Of Ahmed Aliouat.

www.aliouat.info

contact@aliouat.info

London 18th February 2019