



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Kuwait: Report of the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights on the trial session of the national poet Jamal Al-Sayer on July 13, 2021

On the morning of July 13, the ICSFT's representative, Human Rights Adviser Anwar Al-Rasheed, attended the trial session of the national poet Jamal Al-Sayer as an observer of the trial's progress after he was arrested by members of the State Security Apparatus in front of his house on the evening of July 5th because of an opinion he had previously expressed through his personal account on the Twitter, he was accused of insulting the prince and spreading false news.

The court agreed that our representative should attend the court session without any obstacles, and also allowed the attendance of a large group of activists, in addition to deputies from the current and former Parliament, in a campaign of solidarity with the right to freedom of expression.

The trial took place in accordance to the Constitution and international covenants. As a defense, 14 lawyers volunteered to defend the accused, Jamal Al-Sayer, who pleaded himself, as well, for nearly ten minutes. During the pleading, he cited the statements of the former emir and mentioned the corruption scandals that affected society over the past three decades and what the situation has become.

The judge asked him if he was upset about this situation and he answered without hesitation "yes", then the judge ordered his release without guarantee, and the session was adjourned to the next October 5th so that the defense could submit a defense memorandum.



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The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights welcomes the decision to release the poet Jamal Al-Sayer. It stresses that his trial was in compliance with fair trial standards. We value the Kuwaiti judiciary's commitment to all constitutional and legal procedures, and we also appreciate allowing civil society representatives to attend the trial.

Moreover, ICSFT hopes that the national poet Jamal Al-Sayer will be acquitted of the accusation against him. We call upon the Kuwaiti authorities once again to abide by their international commitments in addition to the Kuwaiti constitution by not harassing citizens and detaining them arbitrarily in this way.

ICSFT also hopes that the authorities will seriously start implementing the recommendations of the universal periodic review and amending laws that restrict freedom of expression and violate international laws, Article 36 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights signed and ratified by the states of Kuwait in 1996, which was the reason for the high numbers of Prisoners of conscience, displaced persons, and asylum seekers.

Human rights advisor
Representative of the ICSFT in the Gulf States
Anwar Al-Rasheed
Kuwait, July 14, 2021

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