

European Parliament

Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI)

Exchange of Views on the Human Rights Situation on the Arab Peninsula

Tuesday, 19 February 2019 – 11h00 to 12h30

Room ASP – 1G3

Introductory remarks by **Mr Pier Antonio Panzeri**, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

Panelist Bios:



Hatice Cengiz is the fiancée of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was assassinated in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. Mr. Khashoggi was the editor of *Al Watan* newspaper, and a columnist for the Washington post, and a frequent voice for progress and respect for human rights in the Gulf. Since his death, Ms. Cengiz has been campaigning for accountability of the Saudi regime in to keep her fiancé's work alive, and recently published a book entitled, '*Jamal Khashoggi: his life, his fight, his secrets*' (2019).



Matthew Hedges is a British academic and researcher who was arrested in the United Arab Emirates on suspicion of spying on behalf of the British government. In November 2018, Hedges was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of espionage in state security in a trial which Human Rights Watch described as "marred with such due process violations that there's no way it could have been seen as a fair trial", but later pardoned and freed. Mr Hedges has reported undergoing torture and denial of rights during his imprisonment, in order to force a confession. He was released on 27 November 2017.



Ali Alaswad is a former Member of Bahrain's parliament in who resigned in February 2011 in response to the Governments' crackdown on peaceful democracy protesters. After his home was targeted by security forces, he left Bahrain and now resides in London where he continues his political work to achieve a democratic Bahrain. In November 2018, Mr Alaswad was sentenced, in absentia and along with several other members of the Al Wafeq political society, to life imprisonment by The Supreme Court of Cassation of Bahrain.

For further information, please email Morgan Cloud: mcloud@npwj.org

A Live Webcast of this hearing can be viewed at tinyurl.com/DROI-ArabRights (link active on the day)