



Ret: 413 / 6 / 3 / 1 / 27 80

Geneva, 20 April 2017

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations presents its compliments to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice and with reference to its letter dated 6 April 2017, ref.ALSAU 4/2017, regarding the arrest and detention of Mrs. Maryam AL OTAIBI, has the honor to attach the preliminary response from the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding this matter.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will provide the Working Group with more information as soon as it is received from the Government.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew the Working Group and Special Rapporteurs the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVE 10**



PRELIMINARY REPORT

We hereby would like to inform you that the Human Rights Commission has investigated this matter and has reported that the girl had been placed in the girl's care center for a case of disobedience to her parents and she was under investigation on 3/2/1438 by the competent department regarding her ingratitude.

Following the investigation, she was released on 3/2/1438 in accordance with article 120 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after taking the necessary commitments from her parents and the brother not to harm her and to protect her, to treat her with kindness, tenderness, compassion and forgetting the past. The parents should cooperate with the Girls Welfare Institution in the city of Boreida when necessary to follow up her case with the specialist of the social and psychological unit.

A decision was made to discontinue the girl's case for disobedience due to lack of proper conduct according to article 124 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the parents have accepted to waive the civil action against her in order to preserve the family ties for the reconciliation of all children with the family members.

Regarding her case against the brother who intimidate and defame her, it ended with a decision to close the case for lack of evidence according to article 124 of the code of criminal procedure. The girl has been called to be informed about the final investigation. She has the right to claim to the private right if she directly desires before the competent court according to article 16 of the same regulations.

Moreover, the Investigation and Prosecution Board has written to the director of social protection unit in Boreida to study the case in question about her alleged exposure to violence and to provide any necessary information. In case that a criminal action appears, the file shall be submitted to the competent department for necessary action.



With regard to the allegations concerning the subject of jurisdiction, guardianship and discrimination against women, the response has been made in the combined third and fourth periodic report of Saudi Arabia to the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). We also inform you that the standing committee on responses to the Human Rights Commission will provide us with a reply to all the allegations and queries contained in the letter of the rapporteurs as soon as the requested information will be available.