



PRESS RELEASE

Alarm Raised for Safety of American Kuwaiti Journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin

For immediate release:

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Today, the international counsel team acting in the case of journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin has issued an urgent statement.

Ahmed Shihab-Eldin is a dual U.S. and Kuwaiti citizen. He is an award-winning journalist who has previously contributed to The New York Times, PBS, Al Jazeera English and the BBC. Mr. Shihab-Eldin has not posted online or been seen in public for since 2nd March 2026 in Kuwait, where he was visiting family. He was arrested on 3rd March 2026 and has been detained since. The charges against him have not been released publicly, but he is understood to be charged with spreading false information, harming national security and misusing his mobile phone, based on him re-posting images verified and posted by international media organisations.

Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Kate Gibson and Niamh Ní Aonghusa are instructed by Mr. Shihab-Eldin's two sisters, Lara Eldin and Luma Eldin, who are both based outside Kuwait. The international legal team has filed urgent appeals with United Nations experts and they are engaging with U.S., European and other authorities.

Speaking today, **Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC**, international counsel, said:

"It has now been 51 days since our client, Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, an American Kuwaiti journalist, was taken. Every day he's gone is agonizing for his family. We are aware of multiple reports from the US State Department and international bodies of mistreatment in Kuwaiti prisons. We are extremely concerned for Ahmed's safety and wellbeing.

Kuwait is supposedly the United States' ally, yet this American citizen remains behind bars. It is long past time for him to be released so he can come home to his family in the USA."

Concerns have been repeatedly raised by international experts regarding Kuwaiti prisons and the conduct of Kuwaiti police and security forces. This includes a [December 2024 report](#) of the UN Committee Against Torture which raised concerns about overcrowding and poor conditions of detention in Kuwaiti prisons, as well as torture and ill-treatment of

prisoners; and the Department of State's most recent [2024 report](#) on human rights in Kuwait, which documents credible reports of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment by police and Kuwait State Security forces.

On 17th April 2026 a [State Department spokesperson](#) said that they are aware of reports of Mr. Shihab-Eldin's detention in Kuwait, and that the Trump administration "*has no higher priority than the safety and security of Americans.*"

****ENDS****

Notes to Editors:

- **Lara Eldin and Luma Eldin are not available for interviews, and they would be grateful for privacy at this time. Any press queries should be directed to April Ponnuru, Ridgely Walsh - april@ridgelywalsh.com / +1-202-731-1074.**
- The international legal team is instructed by Mr. Shihab-Eldin's two sisters, both of whom are based outside Kuwait. The international legal team is entirely separate to Mr. Shihab-Eldin's domestic lawyers in Kuwait.