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Minister of Justice
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Your Excellency,

I am alarmed to learn that the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh resented Salma al-Shehab, an academic and mother of two, to 27 years in prison followed by a 27-year travel ban on 25 January, after the Supreme Court returned her case to the SCC's appeals chamber to look into it again. The SCC convicted Salma of terrorism. Their charges arose from the peaceful exercise of her right to freedom of expression through tweets she published on her account in support of women's rights. She has been on a hunger strike since 23 March in protest against her arbitrary detention and unfair trial.

I urge you to order the immediate and unconditional release of Salma al-Shehab and the quashing of her conviction and sentence as she is being held solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression. I also call on you to stop equating the exercise of freedom of expression with "terrorism", and to repeal or substantially amend the counter-terrorism and anti-cybercrime laws which criminalize peaceful dissent, and enact new laws that are fully compatible with international human rights standards.

Yours sincerely,