



مركز حماية وحرية الصحفيين
Center for Defending
Freedom of Journalists

Journalists Momani and Khalidi are freed
Public Prosecutor agreed to free them...

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists hails the decision.

12/2/2006

The Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) has announced that the Public Prosecutor Sabr Rawashdeh has agreed to the request bailing colleagues Jihad Momani former Editor-in-Chief of Shihan newspaper and Hashem Khalidi Editor-in-Chief of Al-Mehwar newspaper, following the rejection of two similar requests.

In a statement issued today, the Center said "the lawyer of the legal aid unit for media practitioners affiliated to the (CDFJ), Mohammad Qtaishat has on February 12,2006 presented a request for bailing out the two colleagues and the Public Prosecutor has responded positively to the request and ordered their release.

The Center hailed the Prosecutor's decision and considered it a positive initiative contributing to containing this crisis which had its impact on media freedom in Jordan.

President of the CDFJ Nidal Mansour said "We consider the release an important positive step enhancing our confidence in the judiciary whose independence we hold in esteem".

He added that "We have always opposed pre-detention of journalists in press issues since such detention is a pre-punishment"

Mansour noted that His Majesty the King had more than once voiced his opposition to the detention or jailing of

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journalists in line of his advocacy that the freedom of media was as high as the sky.

It is noteworthy that colleagues Momani and Khaldi faced two lawsuits, the first at Amman Magistrate Court for being charged with offending religious sentiments breaching Article 278/1 of the Penal Code.

Khalidi was supposed to appear before the Magistrate at a hearing slated on Wednesday February 15, 2006, whereas Momani was to appear on Thursday 16, 2006.

The Magistrate Court lawsuit against the two colleagues is one of two suits. The second was stirred up by the Press and Publication Department which led to the detention of the two journalists for having been accused of reprinting blasphemous cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed – peace be upon him, in accordance with Article 273 of the Penal Code. No date has yet been set to look into the second suit.

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