



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Detained in Saudi Arabia for the last 6 years**

**Nathalie Morin, ambushed by her partner with the complicity of Saudi police**

**Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – Nathalie Morin, the young Quebecer detained against her will in Saudi Arabia for the last 6 years, has been arrested by Saudi police while in company of her 3 children. They were taken to a police station where Ms. Morin was questioned for 2 hours after which she was informed that she will be accused of kidnapping her children.

Last Monday, Nathalie was alone in her apartment with her 3 children. Her partner, Saeed Al Shahrani, had left for Bisha, his home town, since June 4<sup>th</sup>, and was not to return before the 9<sup>th</sup>. Wajeha Al Huwaider, a Saudi journalist and feminist, contacted Ms. Morin in order to take her grocery shopping with money sent by her mother from Canada, so that she could purchase food and drinkable water for herself and her children.

However, the moment Nathalie went out with her children to meet Ms. Al Huwaider who was waiting downstairs in her car, the police intervened and was accompanied by Mr. Al Shahrani. Mr. Al Shahrani ordered Ms. Morin to return to the apartment while Ms. Al Huwaider was arrested and escorted to the police station. She was interrogated for nearly seven hours before being released.

Before police, Mr. Al Shahrani admitted that the apartment was tapped. This is how he discovered that Ms. Morin had hidden a key and a cell phone in the apartment. This is also how he discovered that Ms. Morin was going to leave the apartment during his absence.

It is only since this morning that Nathalie Morin's mother, Ms. Johanne Durocher, was able to speak briefly with her daughter. Her partner gave her the phone, informing her that he was listening in on the conversation. During this conversation, Ms. Durocher was informed that Nathalie was interrogated for 2 hours by police and a secretary from the Saudi government. They refused to give their names, but advised Nathalie that this coming Sunday, she would know the date of her trial for kidnapping.

We denounce the participation of Saudi police in the manoeuvres of Ms. Morin's partner.

We are asking the government of Canada to take action so that Nathalie Morin and her children, all four Canadian citizens, can return to their country before it is too late. Senator Jean-Claude Rivest, who actively supports Ms. Morin's cause, joins us in protest.

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**Nathalie Morin's Support Committee** is a citizen organisation, not for profit, that includes several

individuals and has the support of numerous women's groups, MPs and MNAs.

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