November 4, 2026

Evan Spiegel, Chief Executive Officer, Snap Inc.

Subject: Demand for Disclosure and Restoration of Snapchat Accounts Restricted at the Request of Saudi Authorities

Dear Mr. Spiegel,

We write on behalf of the American Committee for Middle East Rights (ACMER), Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), ALQST for Human Rights, MENA Rights Group, and the European Saudi Organization for Human Rights (ESOHR) concerning reports that Snapchat has restricted accounts belonging to Saudi dissidents, human rights defenders, and political activists at the request of Saudi authorities.

Reports published by human rights organizations in May 2026 identified Snapchat among the platforms restricting Saudi opposition accounts. The reported cases included accounts associated with activists Omar Abdulaziz, Nasser al-Qarni, and Mishaal al-Buraq. According to those reports, affected users discovered that their accounts were inaccessible to audiences inside Saudi Arabia without receiving prior notice or a clear explanation of the legal basis for the restrictions.

Snapchat has not publicly provided sufficient information to establish the full scope of the restrictions, the requests that prompted them, or the process used to assess their legality and human rights implications.

The lack of transparency is particularly troubling where an entire account may be restricted without the owner being told which content allegedly violates the law. Such a practice prevents users from understanding the basis for the decision, challenging erroneous or overbroad restrictions, or assessing whether their content has been removed globally or merely withheld in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi authorities rely on broadly worded provisions of the Anti-Cyber Crime Law to penalize expression alleged to threaten public order, religious values, public morals, or privacy. These provisions have been used to prosecute peaceful critics and online activists.

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights require businesses to assess actual and potential human rights impacts, integrate findings into their decisions, and provide or cooperate in effective remedies when adverse impacts occur. A

company's responsibility to respect human rights is not discharged merely by complying with local legal requirements.

Snapchat should explain how it evaluated the Saudi government's requests, why affected users were reportedly not notified, and what safeguards prevent the platform from being used to suppress peaceful political expression.

You are also the "American tech platform" to which the U.S. government has addressed its own policy. On May 28, 2025, Secretary of State Rubio declared it "unacceptable for foreign officials to demand that American tech platforms adopt global content moderation policies or engage in censorship activity that reaches beyond their authority and into the United States." We are separately asking the State and Treasury Departments to apply the same measures to the Saudi officials responsible, and the House Judiciary Committee to add these orders to its inquiry into foreign censorship demands on your companies.

We ask Snap Inc. to answer the following questions:

1. Provide the full text of every Saudi government request, order, or legal instrument received in 2026 concerning Snapchat accounts belonging to activists, journalists, dissidents, or civil society organizations.
2. Identify the Saudi agencies that submitted or transmitted those requests and the legal provisions invoked.
3. Confirm which accounts were restricted, the dates of the restrictions, and whether the measures apply only inside Saudi Arabia.
4. Explain why affected users were reportedly not notified before or promptly after the restrictions were imposed.
5. Identify the specific content alleged to violate Saudi law and explain why account-level restrictions were necessary.
6. Explain the legal and human rights assessment conducted before complying with the requests, including the assessment of legality, necessity, and proportionality.
7. State whether Snapchat considered narrower measures, sought clarification or modification of the requests, or considered challenging them.
8. Explain how affected users can obtain the legal basis for their restrictions and appeal the decisions.
9. Disclose whether any content posted by users in the United States was removed globally in connection with the requests.
10. Explain the role of Snapchat's regional offices, employees, contractors, or partners in receiving and implementing the requests.

11. State whether commercial relationships with Saudi state-linked entities or potential legal exposure for local employees or partners influenced the decisions.
12. Identify comparable requests received from other governments in the region concerning peaceful political speech or human rights advocacy.

We ask Snap Inc. to take the following actions:

1. Restore access inside Saudi Arabia to every affected account that does not violate Snapchat's own rules.
2. Publish the Saudi requests and orders and disclose the human rights assessments conducted, to the fullest extent legally possible.
3. Notify every affected user of the specific content at issue, the legal provision invoked, and the geographic scope of the restriction.
4. Establish an effective appeal process with meaningful human review and a mechanism for correcting erroneous restrictions.
5. Adopt and publish safeguards against government demands that target peaceful political speech, journalism, and human rights advocacy.
6. Publish transparent data on government requests and restrictions, disaggregated by country, agency, legal basis, and outcome.
7. Meet with the undersigned organizations and affected users within 30 days.

Snapchat's reported lack of notification makes accountability especially difficult. Users should not have to discover by chance that their voices have been silenced in their own country, without knowing who requested the restriction, what law was invoked, or how to challenge the decision.

We request a written response within 7 days. We intend to make this letter and Snapchat's response public.

Sincerely,

The American Committee for Middle East Rights (ACMER)
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)
ALQST for Human Rights
MENA Rights Group
The European Saudi Organization for Human Rights (ESOHR)