

Empire State Building, #4202  
New York, NY 10118  
Tel +1-212-246-8486  
info@hrf.org

Thor Halvorssen  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Garry Kasparov  
CHAIRMAN

Kenneth Anderson  
Diego Arria  
George Ayittey  
Vladimir Bukovsky  
Abdel Nasser Ould Ethmane  
Palden Gyatso  
Ron Jacobs  
Mart Laar  
Alexander Lloyd  
Jacqueline Moudeina  
Amir Ahmad Nasr  
Marina Nemat  
Park Sang Hak  
Robert A. Sirico  
Mutabar Tadjibaeva  
Cameron Colby Thomson  
Álvaro Vargas Llosa

IN MEMORIAM

Václav Havel  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS  
(1936-2011)

Elie Wiesel  
(1928-2016)

Harry Wu  
(1936-2016)

Ramón José Velásquez  
(1916-2014)

Eduardo Mendoza  
(1917-2009)

January, 29 2019

Mr. Rob Light  
Creative Artists Agency  
2000 Avenue of the Stars  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Via email

Dear Mr. Light,

Human Rights Foundation (HRF) has learned that Mariah Carey will travel to Saudi Arabia to perform at King Abdullah Economic City on January 31, 2019, during the country's first international golf tournament. As the agent of Ms. Carey, you should know that her performance is part of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plan to whitewash the kingdom's reputation, and that the crown prince is financing the performance of your client.

I am writing to inform you of the human rights crisis in Saudi Arabia, to clarify the role that Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has played in violating the rights of millions of Saudis, and to request that your client Ms. Carey cancel her performance in Saudi Arabia. Any funds that you and Ms. Carey receive for this performance will be a direct payment from one of the world's most brutal and corrupt regimes.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, MBS, silences anyone who dares to criticize his policies or call for reform. Since coming to power in June 2017, MBS has systematically eliminated many of his political opponents and has introduced legal measures to criminalize peaceful dissent. His crackdown has intensified in the past year with the jailing of hundreds of journalists, civil society members, activists, and intellectuals, many of whom have been detained for months without being charged. The recent murder of Jamal Khashoggi is perhaps the most brazen example of the extreme violence that MBS exerts in order to silence his critics.

Your client, Mariah Carey, is the one of the most popular female artists in the world and has tremendous media influence. MBS hopes to use that influence to bolster his own reputation and regain credibility, both locally and abroad. Instead, we urge her to use her platform to advance human rights and make the world a better place.

Ms. Carey has partnered with multiple nonprofit organizations, many of which benefit the rights of children. Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has led an intervention into Yemen's civil war that has created the worst humanitarian crisis on earth, one that has caused the deaths of more than 85,000 Yemeni children. Saudi Arabia has orchestrated bombings that have killed and injured scores of Yemeni children, and has even been accused of outsourcing its war to Yemeni child soldiers. If Ms. Carey truly supports the rights of children, she cannot in good conscience collaborate with a regime that has caused so much suffering.

In addition, Ms. Carey has been an outspoken advocate for women's rights and has publicly campaigned against gender discrimination. Saudi Arabia is by far one of the most patriarchal societies in the world and systematically violates women's rights. Because of the regime's male guardianship system, women cannot work, travel, get married, or exit prison without permission from a male relative. Legally, women are second class citizens. MBS's regime has arrested the women's rights activists that advocated against the infamous driving ban; now in prison, they are being subjected to torture that includes electric shocks, flogging, and sexual abuse. The remaining women's rights activists have been forced into exile. Ms. Carey's decision to perform in Saudi Arabia severely undermines her own views on gender equality and her advocacy efforts in support of women's rights.

Despite her alleged commitment to human rights and humanitarian causes, Ms. Carey has decided to perform for a murderous regime. If Ms. Carey moves forward with this performance, she will be complicit in the Saudi regime's attempt to detract attention away from the country's disastrous human rights situation. HRF urges Mariah Carey to cancel her upcoming performance in Saudi Arabia immediately and to apologize not only to her millions of fans, but also to the thousands of people who have been unlawfully imprisoned and tortured at the hands of the Saudi regime. It is HRF's belief that Mariah Carey should be advocating for the release of those who have been arbitrarily imprisoned by MBS, rather than taking money to whitewash his crimes.

Considering the information above, performing in Saudi Arabia will be disastrous for Mariah Carey's reputation. HRF asks you to urgently consider canceling this performance. If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 246-8486 or by email at [celine@hrf.org](mailto:celine@hrf.org).

Sincerely,



Garry Kasparov  
Chairman

