

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2020

The Honorable Dina Kawar  
Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States  
The Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
3504 International Drive, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kawar,

We write today regarding Mr. Haytham David AKA Munther Wadie Dewod, a U.S. Citizen and businessman from Ohio who has been detained and imprisoned in Amman, Jordan for over a month over an accusation of writing a check without sufficient funds.

Mr. David is the CEO of an international restaurant business, and its US division is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. His restaurants employ thousands of individuals in the United States, Jordan, and other countries around the globe. As you can imagine, Mr. David's family and employees here in the United States are deeply concerned about his situation, and we request your assistance in expediting the resolution to this situation so that Mr. David can be released to return home and continue to provide jobs and opportunity for people in both of our nations.

According to Mr. David's family, this issue involves checks that were stolen several years ago by a former employee. This former employee was paid a severance and signed a non-disparagement agreement in which the individual agreed to return all private and company documents. Mr. David's family has told our offices that the checks were stolen by this employee prior to his departure and were never returned. They were reported missing to police at the time, and this is not the first time this issue has come before the courts in Jordan. The same former employee wrote a check a couple years ago that was thrown out by the Jordanian judicial system.

It is our understanding that Minister of Justice Bassam Talhouni is aware of this case and immediately sent it to an appeals court based on the separation agreement and prior court case. However, Mr. David remains imprisoned without the opportunity to post bail while he awaits a ruling from the courts.

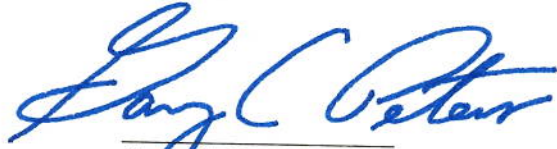
The United States Department of State is also monitoring the situation and has performed a health and welfare check on Mr. David.

Thank you for your willingness to look into this matter, and thanks for helping to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. Please let us or our offices know of any updates, and thanks again for your consideration. Our staff contacts are Wayne Jones and Jordan Wells, and they can be reached at [Wayne\\_Jones@portman.senate.gov](mailto:Wayne_Jones@portman.senate.gov) and [Jordan\\_Wells@peters.senate.gov](mailto:Jordan_Wells@peters.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Stephen Biegun, Deputy Secretary of State  
Ms. Karen Sasahara, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan