



## Rhys Davies

Year of Call: 2004

### Practice Areas

- Civil Fraud
- Insurance
- Public International Law

### Public Access

Undertakes Public Access work

### Email:

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### Experience

Rhys is an experienced international criminal law and human rights law practitioner, based in London and the Hague. He has a particular interest in the Middle East and the rights of journalists. Rhys is in demand as a commentator on international human rights and regularly appears both on television and in print. He is a frequent speaker at human rights events at the United Nations in Geneva and the House of Commons. Rhys often comments for Al-Jazeera Television, and has recently written for the Times, Guardian and Independent newspapers. Rhys combines his international work with a busy and diverse domestic common law practice in England and Wales.

Rhys accepts instructions across the spectrum of matters concerning international criminal and international human rights law. He is a member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. In addition to his work as a commentator, he is much in demand as a speaker and moderator on panels concerning a broad range of international criminal law and international human rights law issues, with a focus on the Middle East, oppressive state conduct and the rights of journalists.

Rhys has recently spoken at, and chaired, events at the 36th, 37th and 38th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. He has also recently spoken at meetings at

the House of Commons on matters including the use of the death penalty and the protection of prisoners in international law. He is the author of numerous articles concerning justice in the Middle East and is co-author of a recent article on the rule of law in despotic regimes. Rhys has recent experience in the assertion of functional and personal immunity, and particular knowledge in matters concerning the World Bank's Sanctions Regime.

Within his domestic common law practice, Rhys represents both Claimants and Defendants and has a particular focus on fraudulent claims. Recent experience in this area includes advising in civil fraud and contempt proceedings, private criminal prosecutions and pro-active claims by insurers in cases of suspected dishonesty. Rhys has particular experience in cases concerning fraudulent travel and veterinary claims. Rhys has lectured on wide-ranging areas of common law matters including credit hire, fraud rings and personal-injury litigation tactics.

### **Education**

BVC Inns of Court School of Law

MA (Hons) Law, Trinity College, University of Cambridge

### **Memberships**

- Admitted to list of Defence Counsel before the International Criminal Court
- Admitted to list of Defence Counsel of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon
- Admitted to list of Defence Counsel before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers
- Association of Defence Counsel practising before the International Courts and Tribunals
- International Criminal Court Bar Association
- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- International Bar Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit

## **News**

### **Rhys Davies appears on Al Jazeera television to comment on the death of former Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi**

18/06/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Reports indicated that he had been held in prolonged solitary confinement and had repeatedly been denied medical treatment. Last year, a report by the Detention Review Panel warned that a lack of medical treatment could result in Morsi's premature death. Rhys was asked to comment on the legal and human rights implications of Morsi's death in custody.

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## **Rhys Davies attends court in the West Bank, as international counsel for activist Suha Jbara**

12/06/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

On 12th June 2019, Ms Jbara was brought before judges at the Jericho courthouse for the 5th time, but has yet to be formally charged. Submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture are now pending.

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## **Urgent Communication submitted to UN Special Rapporteur on Extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary Executions**

20/05/2019

Barristers involved: Rodney Dixon QC Rhys Davies

It is currently held by the Moroccan authorities due to Mr. Bouachrine's ongoing criminal proceedings in Morocco. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recently held that Mr Bouachrine's detention was arbitrary and that his trial proceedings had been marred by violations of his right to a fair trial, and directed that the Moroccan authorities release him immediately, following Counsel's application to the Working Group. The mobile phone is potentially relevant to the Special Rapporteur's investigation as Mr Bouachrine has stated that it contains text messages sent between himself and Mr Khashoggi about their safety and security in the period prior to Mr Khashoggi's murder and Mr Bouachrine's arrest. Both of them as leading human rights journalists had been highly critical of the Saudi government and its policies. Mr Bouachrine's appeal proceedings continue in Casablanca.

Please see link below for English news item, and [here](#) for news item in French.

You can view the publication at

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-7041659/Lawyers-jailed-Morocco-journalist-urge-phone-release-Khashoggi-probe.html>

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## **Rhys Davies appears on Al Jazeera Television to analyse leaked reports in the Guardian of abuse of Saudi political prisoners**

01/04/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

The Guardian has been informed that the Saudi King commissioned examinations of up to 60 prisoners, possibly with a view to releasing and pardoning them. The examinations take place against a backdrop of ongoing scrutiny into allegations of human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia.

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## **Rhys Davies is asked to comment on the release of Saudi Arabian human rights activists, on Al Jazeera Television**

29/03/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Eman al-Nafjan, Aziza al-Yousef and Roqaya al-Mohareb were released from prison after nine months, having been detained for campaigning for human rights reforms in Saudi Arabia. Eight other human rights campaigners who were arrested at the same time remain in custody.

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## **Rhys Davies writes in the Guardian, highlighting human rights abuses in Egypt and calling for the UK to stand up for the rule of law**

13/03/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Egypt executed 15 people in February after unfair trials in which human rights campaigners say confessions were elicited by torture.

You can view the publication at

## **Rhys Davies and Aidan Ellis speak at an event in Parliament to discuss Human Rights abuses in Egypt**

07/03/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies Aidan Ellis

Rhys and Aidan discussed the political and legal remedies available and joined a panel of experts in calling for the UK to use its influence to help end Human Rights abuses in Egypt. Egyptian authorities continue to execute prisoners following trials which do not meet basic international standards of fairness.

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## **Rhys Davies appears on Al Jazeera Television to discuss a UN investigation into the Khashoggi killing**

30/01/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Rhys also discussed the likely impact of the UN's report, to be published in June.

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## **Rhys Davies and Aidan Ellis have been added to the list of lawyers for the United Nations Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, for petitioners who seek delisting from the sanctions list.**

21/01/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies Aidan Ellis

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## **Rhys Davies is asked to comment on Al Jazeera television on the latest developments in the Khashoggi case**

07/01/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

11 individuals have been charged in connection with the killing, although their identities have not been revealed. Rhys spoke about recent United Nations demands for an international investigation, as well as the likely response from Turkey.

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## **Rhys Davies appears on Al Jazeera to comment on a request by British parliamentarians to visit Saudi women activists currently imprisoned.**

02/01/2019

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Saudi Arabia detained a number of activists last year. Recent reports have suggested that those individuals have been denied basic legal rights and have been subjected to torture whilst in detention. A cross-party group of parliamentarians, as well as leading international lawyers, have written to the Saudi embassy in the United Kingdom asking for assistance in organising a visit to those activists.

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## **Rhys Davies appears on Al Jazeera to discuss the latest developments in the Khashoggi affair**

10/12/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

In light of the refusal by Saudi Arabia to accede to a Turkish request for the extradition of key suspects in the Khashoggi killing, Rhys Davies was interviewed on Al Jazeera television and asked to comment on legal and political remedies. Rhys spoke on the next steps available to Jamal Khashoggi's family, and the international community at large.

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## **Rhys Davies admitted to the List of Specialist Counsel before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers**

29/10/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

TGC is pleased to announce that Rhys Davies has been admitted List of Specialist Counsel as Defence Counsel before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) in the Hague.

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## **Rhys Davies writes in the Times, addressing the international response to the war in Yemen in light of the Khashoggi killing**

24/10/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Rhys has written an article in the Times, in light of the Khashoggi scandal, calling for the international community to take to the opportunity to prevent catastrophe in Yemen.

You can view the publication at <https://bit.ly/2JdAOSO>

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## **Rhys Davies writes in the Independent newspaper regarding legal remedies in the Khashoggi affair**

22/10/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Following the admission by Saudi Arabia that Jamal Khashoggi was killed at their Turkish Consulate, writing in the Independent newspaper, Rhys Davies addresses possible remedies in international law. Rhys sets out the next steps that might be taken at against both Saudi Arabia and the individuals allegedly involved in the killing.

You can view the publication at

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/jamal-khashoggi-death-international-law-prosecute-istanbul-saudi-arabia-mohammed-bin-salman-a8596236.html>

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## **The Human Rights Situation in Saudi Arabia**

09/10/2018

Barristers involved: Rodney Dixon QC Rhys Davies

He co-authored a report on detentions in Saudi Arabia with Lord Ken Macdonald QC earlier this year which has been submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The webpage of the conference is [here](#) which includes the livestream of the event. Rhys Davies also participated in the event.

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## **Rhys Davies and Sian Reeves speak at a press conference outside the embassy of Saudi Arabia, in London**

05/10/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies Sian Reeves

At the press conference, Rhys Davies called upon the Saudi government to confirm whether it had detained Jamal Khashoggi and, if so, to release him immediately. Sian Reeves highlighted the Saudi government's history of arrests of activists and dissidents, and further called upon the Saudi government to release Jamal Khashoggi if he is in their custody.

You can view the publication at

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181005-uk-rights-groups-call-on-saudi-to-reveal-khashoggi-whereabouts/>

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## **Rhys Davies has been quoted in an article published in The Daily Express**

17/09/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

“From Salisbury to the South China Sea, opponents of Western democracy are trying to undermine the structure of international legal norms. Bolton’s comments hand Russia, China and other regimes the tools to do so. No institution is perfect but the attack on lawyers and judges at an institution with a broad international backing is chilling.”

You can view the publication at

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1018042/john-bolton-donald-trump-international-criminal-court-icc-afghanistan-investigation>

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## **Rhys Davies co-authors an article in the New Law Journal - International Justice: English lawyers in despotic jurisdictions.**

17/07/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

As part of a series of articles on international justice and the rule of law in other jurisdictions, Rhys Davies & Ben Keith ask whether, following the success of the Dubai International Financial Centre and the imminent launch of the Astana International Financial Centre, countries such as Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates are using the reputation of English law and lawyers to shield their poor human rights records.

You can view the publication at <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/international-justice-english-lawyers-despotic-jurisdictions>

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## **Sian Reeves, Rhys Davies and Myles Grandison address an event at the United Nations in Geneva**

27/06/2018

Barristers involved: Sian Reeves Rhys Davies Myles Grandison

Sian Reeves chaired the event relating the torture and ill-treatment of women in UAE’s prisons.

Rhys Davies highlighted the human rights violations committed against women in the UAE, and the cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment that they are subjected to whilst in UAE prisons.

Myles Grandison focused on extradition between the UK and the UAE, and the refusal of the UK courts to extradite to the UAE in view of the current conditions in UAE prisons.

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## **Rhys Davies admitted to the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court**

25/06/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

TGC is pleased to announce that Rhys Davies has been admitted to the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court, in the Hague. Rhys joins chambers’ increasing panel of barristers approved to provide legal assistance in relation to proceedings before the International Criminal Court.

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## **Rhys Davies chairs an event at the House of Commons on famine in Yemen**

25/06/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Rhys chaired, and spoke at, a seminar of international human rights experts in the Grimond Room at the House of Commons concerning the unfolding crisis in Yemen. Rhys was joined by a panel of international lawyers and experts to consider the humanitarian impact of the ongoing international blockade, as well as remedies in international law.

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## **Rhys Davies admitted to the List of Counsel for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon**

08/06/2018

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Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

TGC is delighted to announce that Rhys Davies has been admitted to the List of Counsel for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, in the Netherlands, as Co-counsel.

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## **Rhys Davies addresses an event at the United Nations in Geneva**

13/03/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies

Rhys focused on the recent presentation of a report to the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, which highlights allegations of war crimes committed by nationals of countries subject to the jurisdiction of the ICC.

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## **Rhys Davies and Aidan Ellis address an event at the House of Commons**

28/02/2018

Barristers involved: Rhys Davies Aidan Ellis

Rhys and Aidan addressed Committee Room 17 on the growing use of the death penalty in both civilian and military jurisdictions, and called for a moratorium on its use. Rhys further highlighted the increased politicisation of the judiciary since the coup of 2013, and Aidan observed that the death penalty was part of a process aimed at suppressing dissent.

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