

SAUDI ARABIA

CHARACTER PACK

Saudi trials for personal injury and assault commonly use:

- A 3-Judge Panel (Qudāh / قضاة) under
- *Sharia principles (Hanbali school)*
- *Saudi criminal law provisions*

This is appropriate for a mid-level assault case like this.

1. CHIEF JUDGE — Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sayed

Age: 56

Address: “Your Honor” / “Qādī” (قاضي)

Tone: Calm, firm, deeply respectful.

Practical Personality

- Speaks slowly and clearly.
- Believes justice must reflect fairness and truthfulness.

- Very patient, dislikes interruptions.
- Prioritizes intent (niyyah / نية) above all else.

Mild Internal Bias (very

- Has empathy for injured workers.
- But strongly dislikes accusations without certainty.
- Prefers reconciliation if possible.

These are mild and **MUST NOT** decide guilt – only influence tone.

Chief Judge Responsibilities

Students playing Judge Al-Sayed must:

- **Open court** with:

”بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. نبدأ الجلسة.“

(“In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate. We begin the session.”)

- Lead nearly all questioning.
- Maintain respect and order.
- Guide the other judges.

- Ensure every witness speaks truthfully.
- Ask about **intent, circumstances, and character**, not just facts.
- Consider reconciliation or *diyya* (compensation) if applicable.

Decision Tools (Judge's Mini Rulebook)

Saudi judges evaluate:

1. Intent (Niyyah – نية)

- Did the defendant intend harm?
- Or was it fear, panic, confusion?

2. Level of Harm (ضرر)

- Did the injury result in long-term damage?
- Does the medical testimony support a strike or a fall?

3. Truthfulness (صدق)

Judges look for:

- Calm behavior

- Humility
- Sincere tone
- Consistency in answers

4. Witness Honesty

False witness testimony is a major sin in Sharia.

So judges watch for:

- Hesitation
- Exaggeration
- Contradictions

5. Circumstantial Evidence

Allowed, but must be considered carefully.

6. Possibility of a Third Person

Judges will ask:

- “هل يمكن أن يكون شخص آخر موجوداً؟”

(“Is it possible someone else was there?”)

Possible Verdicts

1. Innocent (براءة)

If doubt remains.

2. Negligent Harm (شبه عمد)

Semi-intentional injury → lower punishment.

3. Intentional Harm (عمد)

Higher punishment.

4. Trespass (تعدي / دخول غير مشروع)

Entering property without permission.

5. Combined Offenses

Sentencing Options

(simplified, for simulation)

Saudi punishments vary depending on intent and injury.

Possible outcomes:

Diyya (دية)

A financial compensation to the victim.

Used especially when injury was not intentional.

Ta'zīr Penalty (تعزير)

Discretionary punishment:

- Fine
- Temporary imprisonment (weeks to a few years)
- Community service
- Behavior/ethics classes

Reconciliation (صلح)

If both sides agree, the court may accept a settlement.

Imprisonment

Used for intentional violence.

Students choose based on:

- Intent
- Harm
- Honesty
- Degree of uncertainty

Behavioral Guide for Chief Judge

- Speak calmly.
- Use honorific phrases.
- Maintain respectful tone.
- Encourage honesty.
- Never raise voice.
- No dramatic courtroom behavior.

Useful lines:

- “تکلم بوضوح.” (“Speak clearly”)
- “أجب على قدر السؤال فقط.” (“Answer only what is asked”)
- “هل تريد إضافة شيء؟” (“Do you want to add anything?”)

2. ASSOCIATE JUDGE —

Sheikh Majed Al-Harbi

Age: 48

Address: “Your Honor”

Practical Personality

- Very detail-focused.
- Watches for contradictions between

statements.

- Soft-spoken but firm.

Light Bias

- Slightly strict about trespass, views it seriously.
- Believes warehouses are dangerous places at night.

Main Duties

- Reconstruct the timeline of events.
- Identify inconsistencies in witness stories.
- Ask direct questions:
- When did you hear “) ”متى سمعت الصوت؟” (“?the sound
- Where exactly “) ”أين كنت تقف بالضبط؟” (“?were you standing

3. ASSOCIATE JUDGE —

Sheikh Faisal Al-Mutairi

Age: 44

Address: “Your Honor”

Practical Personality

- Observes demeanor and truthfulness.
- Very attentive to body language.
- Gentle but probing.

Light Bias

- Strong belief in sincerity → honest mistakes deserve mercy.
- Hard on liars, even small lies.

Main Duties

- Ask about emotions and mental state.
- Evaluate whether the defendant seems remorseful.
- Clarify why actions were taken.

SAUDI PANEL DYNAMICS

- Al-Sayed (Chief) → Controls proceedings
- Al-Harbi → Timeline & details
- Al-Mutairi → Intent & sincerity

- They deliberate together and decide outcome collectively.

PART 2: CORE CASE

CHARACTERS

Below are all main characters adapted for Saudi courtroom procedure.

DEFENDANT – Riley

Morgan

Age: 22

Address the judge: “Your Honor”/“Qāḍī”
(قاضي)

Who they are:

22-year-old part-time delivery rider, occasionally helps at warehouses.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found inside the warehouse when police arrived
- Had minor scrapes and bruises
- Has no criminal record

- Received a trespassing warning at age 19

Private knowledge :

- Heard a loud yell or noise
- Does not remember everything clearly
- Picked up a flashlight
- Did not intend to harm anyone
- Did not intend to steal anything

Goal:

- Avoid conviction
- Convince the court there was no criminal intent
- Show actions were due to confusion or panic

Things to avoid:

- Guessing or inventing details
- Becoming defensive or emotional
- Blaming the victim
- Over-explaining when unsure

VICTIM – Elias Grant

Age: 34

Address to judges: Your honor/Qāḍī” (قاضي)

Who they are:

34-year-old night-shift warehouse security guard.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found unconscious near the loading dock
- Suffered a head injury
- Has partial memory loss
- May have a permanent limp

Private knowledge :

- Does not clearly remember who injured him
- Remembers shouting at someone
- Is embarrassed about memory gaps

Goal:

- Seek justice
- Make the court take the injury seriously
- Avoid accusing the wrong person

Things to avoid: