

URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER SUBJECT TO ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Omani writer and blogger Muawiya al-Ruwahi was detained by State Security in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 24 February as he entered the country from Oman. His whereabouts are unknown and he may be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Muawiya al-Ruwahi (or al-Rawahi) is a well-known Omani writer and blogger. He was detained on 24 February as he entered the UAE from Oman. According to Omani human rights activist Mohammad al-Fazari, Muawiya al-Ruwahi phoned him to say that he was not being allowed into the UAE and that the UAE border security had kept his travel documents. This is the last time he was heard from. He has been subjected to enforced disappearance.

Muawiya al-Ruwahi, aged 31, has long experienced mental health problems for which he has been receiving treatment. As such, he would be particularly vulnerable given the pattern in the UAE where people subjected to enforced disappearance are often held in solitary confinement and tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the UAE authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Muawiya al-Ruwahi immediately and clarify the legal basis of his detention;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to his family, a lawyer of his choosing and any medical attention he may require;
- Urging them to ensure that he is released unless he is promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 APRIL 2015 TO:

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince Court
King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz
Al Saud Street,
P.O. Box: 124
Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 668 6622
Twitter: @MBZNews
Salutation: Your Highness

Vice-President and Prime Minister

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box: 212000 Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 4 330 4044
Email: info@primeminister.ae
<http://uaepm.ae/English/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>
Twitter: @HSHkMoh
Salutation: Your Highness

And copies to:

President
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
Corniche Road
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 280
United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 622 2228
Email: ihtimam@mopa.ae
Salutation: Your Highness

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER SUBJECT TO ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Muawiya al-Ruwahi was arrested in Oman several times in recent years. He was summoned in February 2012 to the Omani State Security headquarters after he criticized Sultan Qaboos in his blog; he was held in a mental health hospital for one week and released without charge. He was arrested on 12 July 2014 after he criticized the Omani authorities in his blog, two days after an Omani teacher had been sentenced to a large fine for “public order offences”, for going on strike in October 2013. He was detained mainly in mental health facilities, first in the al-Massarrah mental health hospital and a week later in the psychiatric ward of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital where he was kept shackled. He was released without charge on 11 August.

The UAE authorities have arrested dozens of foreign nationals in recent years. Many have been subjected to enforced disappearance, held in secret locations by officials who refuse to acknowledge their detention or give any information to their families, such as the reasons for their detention, where they are being held, and in what conditions. The authorities have also denied them access to legal counsel. Such treatment violates the UAE’s own laws, as well as international law. Many of those arrested have been held in solitary confinement and have claimed they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated during interrogation.

Amnesty International documented some cases of foreign nationals detained in its November 2014 report *“There is no freedom here” – Silencing dissent in the United Arab Emirates*, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE25/018/2014/en>.

Name: Muawiya al-Ruwahi

Gender m/f: m

UA: 64/15 Index: MDE 25/1233/2015 Issue Date: 20 March 2015