

URGENT ACTION

ONE QATARI MAN RELEASED, OTHER JAILED

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities have released one of the two Qatari men they had subjected to enforced disappearance, but sentenced the other to 10 years' imprisonment on 18 May. He has no right to appeal.

Qatari national **Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah** was released on 18 March and deported to Qatar. He had been subjected to enforced disappearance since his arrest in June 2014.

Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi, a 33-year-old Qatari national who had been arrested the same day, was tried, along with four other Qatari men, under the Penal Code and Cybercrime law, on charges including "insulting the UAE's symbols (UAE officials)" by publishing information, news, rumours and photos on Twitter with a view to ridiculing and damaging the prestige and status of the State. The four other men were tried in their absence. The State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi sentenced Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi to 10 years in prison, followed by deportation, and the four other men to life imprisonment. All five were also fined one million Dirhams (about US\$272,000). They do not have the right to appeal their convictions to a higher judicial tribunal.

All five men appear to have worked for the Qatari State Security Apparatus. Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi is said to have "confessed" to entering the UAE in September 2013 and buying smartphones and UAE SIM cards which he handed to one of the other men later convicted with him. The phones were then used to publish Tweets deemed insulting to the UAE. Their trial began on 19 January 2015.

Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah and Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi were arrested on 27 June 2014 at the al-Ghuwaifat border post. They had been travelling alone, each driving his own car through southern Qatar, and drove through Saudi Arabia to arrive at the UAE's western border.

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

- Urging the authorities to order a retrial of Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi with full international fair trial guarantees, including the right to appeal the verdict and sentences before a higher tribunal.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 JULY 2015 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

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

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to Shaikh Zayed Mosque
Abu Dhabi POB: 398
Fax: +971 2 441 4938 / +971 2 402 2762 / +971 2 441 5780
Email: moi@moi.gov.ae
Twitter: @SaifBZay

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. This is the first update of UA 256/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/022/2014/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Despite certain safeguards in the UAE Constitution and laws, the rights of detainees upon arrest are routinely disregarded, especially in cases where the State Security Agency (SSA) is involved. Amnesty International has recorded other instances of foreign nationals being arrested and held incommunicado for weeks or months during pre-trial detention. Such arrests are typically carried out by the SSA, which deals with national security cases.

SSA officials generally arrest people without warrants, then take them to unofficial secret detention facilities where they are kept for weeks or months without charge or access to legal representation. Detainees are often tortured or otherwise ill-treated. In cases taken up by Amnesty International, for months officials ignore families' attempts to find out where detainees are held.

Trials before the Federal Supreme Court cannot be appealed to a higher court, though international human rights law requires that everyone convicted of a criminal offence has the right to have their conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher tribunal. Article 101 of the UAE Constitution and Article 67 of the law concerning the Federal Supreme Court declare that its judgements are final, binding and not open to challenge.

Names: Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah, Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 256/14 Index: MDE 25/1700/2015 Issue Date: 21 May 2015