

URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN NATIONAL MOVED TO REGULAR PRISON

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan has been transferred to al-Wathba Prison in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). He had spent several months in solitary confinement at a secret detention facility.

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan, an Egyptian national, was transferred from secret detention to al-Wathba Prison in Abu Dhabi on or around 2 February. He had been kept in solitary confinement in secret detention since he was arrested, on 21 October 2014. He had no access to a lawyer or his family. In al-Wathba Prison, he has been permitted to make a few telephone calls to a friend but has had no contact with his family or a lawyer. He is not believed to have been charged with any offence.

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan, whose father was a media advisor to ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, had been summoned by telephone on 21 October 2014 to appear at the headquarters of the Preventive Security Services in the emirate of Sharjah, where he lived. He phoned his sister and told her of the summons, for which he had been given no reason. He was detained immediately when he presented himself at the headquarters. His sister went to the headquarters the next day and was told that he was in the detention of the State Security apparatus and had been transferred to the State Security office in Abu Dhabi. Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan called his sister three days later, saying he was fine and would soon be released. His family, who now live in Turkey, sent several letters seeking information about him from UAE officials, via the UAE embassy in Istanbul, but did not receive any reply.

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan was brought up in Sharjah emirate. Amnesty International understands that he is not politically active and has no affiliations with any groups. It appears that he may have been detained because of his father's association with Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

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

- Calling on the UAE authorities to explain why Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan has been arrested, and urging them to either charge him promptly with a recognizable criminal offence or else release him immediately;
- Urging them to allow him regular access to a lawyer of his choice and his family;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to any medical attention he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JUNE 2015 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 4414938
+971 2 4022762
+971 2 4415780
Email: moi@moi.gov.ae
Twitter: @SaifBZayed
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:

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

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 21/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE25/0003/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan is the son of a media advisor of the ousted president of Egypt, Mohamed Morsi. His sister Habiba Ahmed 'Abdel 'Aziz, a journalist in her 20s, died in Egypt on 14 August 2013 when she was shot in the neck by the security forces during the violent dispersal of the Rabaa Al-Adaweya sit-in in Cairo.

The UAE authorities have arrested dozens of foreign nationals in recent years, including people from Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Qatar and Oman. These individuals are often held in secret locations by authorities who refuse to acknowledge their detention or give any information to their families – such as the legal basis for their imprisonment, where they have been held, and in what conditions – and deny them access to legal counsel. Such conditions breach both the UAE's own laws and international law, which defines enforced disappearance as a crime. Many of those arrested have been held in solitary confinement and have claimed they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated while under interrogation.

Since 2012, dozens of Egyptian nationals have been subjected to enforced disappearance in the UAE. In November 2013, 20 Egyptian nationals who had been held for months in unknown locations were taken out of secret detention to face trial before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court on charges including establishing an “international” branch of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood organization and stealing and distributing secret state documents. In court, many of the defendants complained that State Security officials had tortured and otherwise ill-treated them during lengthy pre-trial detention in secret locations, when they were held incommunicado. They said this was to force them to sign “confessions”, which they retracted in court. However, the presiding judge failed to order an investigation, and accepted as evidence the “confessions” they had retracted.

Amnesty International documented some cases of Egyptian 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: Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 21/15 Index: MDE 25/1635/2015 Issue Date: 13 May 2015