

URGENT ACTION

DR AL-SHAWA RELEASED AND DEPORTED TO TURKEY

Turkish citizen of Palestinian origin, Dr Amer al-Shawa, was released from detention by the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) State Security body on 13 February after 135 days of enforced disappearance. He was deported to Turkey.

Dr Amer al-Shawa (or al-Shava), a 50-year-old businessman and academic, was released from detention on the morning of 13 February after he was handed his clothes and bags and told by State Security officials that he was being sent home. He was immediately flown back to Turkey and the authorities did not put a stamp on his passport stating that he was being deported. On arrival in Turkey Dr Amer al-Shawa phoned his wife, Emel Inal, to inform her of his release. He has said that during his 135 days in detention, he was mentally and physically tortured and otherwise ill-treated by being threatened with death, torture and rape, and that he received six injections against his will of unknown substances that made him disoriented and unconscious.

Dr Amer al-Shawa had been arrested after his flight from Istanbul landed at Dubai International Airport on 2 October 2014. He had been planning to attend a family wedding in the UAE when he was detained by officers from the UAE's State Security apparatus. Dr Amer al-Shawa managed to send two SMS messages to alert a family friend before his mobile phone was confiscated. His family did not hear from him until 14 October, when his wife received a short phone call, during which he said he was fine and that the people detaining him needed to keep him "for some formalities for a few more days." That was the last contact he had with his family. Despite the family asking many official bodies, including the police and the Ministry of Interior, about Dr Amer al-Shawa's whereabouts and the reason for his arrest, they received no answers from them throughout his detention.

During this time Dr Amer al-Shawa's wife tried to hire a lawyer for her husband; however, all of the nine law firms that she had contacted in Abu Dhabi refused to help.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA: 7/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE25/001/2015/en/>

Name: Dr Amer al-Shawa

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 7/15 Index: MDE 25/1214/2015 Issue Date: 16 March 2015

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

