

URGENT ACTION

FORCIBLY RETURNED MAN AT RISK OF TORTURE

Indonesia forcibly deported Emirati national Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 18 December 2015. His whereabouts are unknown and he is at risk of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The Indonesian authorities detained **Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih**, aged 50, on 20 October 2015 for possession of false identity papers. He was held at the Balerang Resort Police headquarters in Batam Riau Island Province. According to several sources, on 18 December 2015 provincial officials summoned Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih's lawyer to the police headquarters to confirm that his client's custody would end the next day, thus allowing him to pursue an asylum claim with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Indonesia. However, in the evening of 18 December, five UAE and six Indonesian officials removed Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih from the police station, despite there being no court order sanctioning his deportation, and took him to Hang Nadim Batam Airport where he was forced to board a plane to the UAE.

In July 2013 the UAE had sentenced Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih (also known as al-Suwaidi) in his absence to 15 years in prison on charges that he was part of a group that had established an organization seeking to overthrow the UAE government. Over 60 others were also convicted after a grossly unfair trial, in which 71 of the 94 defendants had complained of torture and other ill-treatment. They had no right to appeal the verdict and sentences. The real reason for their arrest and conviction appears to have been their known opposition to the UAE government. In November 2013, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared that the 61 who were imprisoned had been exercising their legitimate right of freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the UAE authorities to end Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih's secret detention and publish his whereabouts;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to a lawyer, his family and any medical attention he may require;
- Calling on them to release Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih unless he is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence, in which case he should have a fair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 FEBRUARY 2016 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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

FORCIBLY RETURNED MAN AT RISK OF TORTURE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Starting in March 2012, the UAE authorities arrested scores of people linked to the social organization al-Islah, claiming that they were linked to Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and that they were conspiring against the UAE's state security.

Between March and July 2013, the UAE tried 94 Emirati nationals, said to be linked to al-Islah, in the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court. Many of the 94 had been held without access to their families or legal representatives, for months, in unknown locations, before they were tried. The court accepted prosecution evidence based on "confessions" in pre-trial detention, when the 94 had not have access to their families or the right to be represented by a lawyer. The court denied ill-treatment claims of 71 of the defendants but took no action to investigate the claims and concluded the trial by convicting 69 of the accused. Under UAE law, the judgement was final and not subject to appeal, in violation of international law. It was an unfair trial.

Following the arrest of Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih in Indonesia in October 2015, the UAE had sought his immediate extradition. However, extradition was not granted since, under the terms of a 2014 extradition treaty between the UAE and Indonesian governments, it had to be agreed by the respective countries' courts. On 18 December 2015, the detention order on Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih had expired. In the absence of a court order permitting his extradition, UAE and Indonesian officials oversaw his forced removal from Indonesia.

Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih has visited Indonesia regularly since 1995, where he has been active in a variety of social and religious charities. He taught Arabic at an Islamic boarding school (*pesantren* in Indonesian) in West Java Province and took part in post-tsunami relief efforts in Aceh in 2004-2005. He is understood to have also provided social assistance to people in Pangangdan, West Java in 2007 following another tsunami. In 2010 he is said to have helped the al-Khairat Islamic organization in the construction of a mosque in Central Sulawesi Province.

According to Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih's lawyer, in the course of one of his client's prolonged stays in Indonesia he lost various identity papers and resorted to obtaining false versions of his Indonesia identity card; the KK, or Kartu Keluarga, a family card, and his birth certificate. Indonesian authorities arrested him under Articles 264.2, 266.1 and 2 of Indonesia Criminal Code, for procuring false documents. The maximum penalty for the charges is eight years' imprisonment.

Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih's lawyer had expected the extradition process to be prolonged since, under Indonesian law, he should have been tried in Indonesia first, quite apart from a court agreeing to the extradition request. Neither of these requirements was met.

Name: Abdulrahman Bin Sobeih (also known as al-Suwaidi)
Gender m/f: m

UA: 4/16 Index: MDE 25/3163/2016 Issue Date: 8 January 2016