

URGENT ACTION

ONLINE ACTIVIST SENTENCED FOR TWEETING

Online activist, Nasser Abul, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for writing derogatory remarks about Sunni Muslims on his Twitter account. He has already been detained for three months, so was released on 27 September. He was acquitted of the charges of insulting the ruling families of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Nasser Abul, 26, was accused of crimes against "state security", "damaging the country's interests" and "severing political relationship with brotherly countries" in connection with messages sent in his name via the micro-blogging site Twitter. He was arrested on 7 June after being summoned to appear for questioning by the State Security Police. He appeared before the General Prosecution on 12 June. He was not allowed to be accompanied by his lawyer, nor was his family allowed to attend the hearing.

Two days later, security officials took Nasser Abul to his family's home, which they searched, and from which they took away his computer and phone. Nasser Abdul told his mother that he had been assaulted by security officials during his first two days in detention, as well as insulted and threatened, and that he was held in a permanently lit cell.

Nasser Abul appeared before a criminal court on several occasions, during which his detention was repeatedly extended. Throughout his trial Nasser Abul denied the charges brought against him, stating that his Twitter account had been hacked and that the moment he saw the derogatory writings he had deleted them.

Nasser Abul was released from Kuwait Central Prison on 27 September 2011.

No further action is required. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 184/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE17/001/2011/en>

Name: Nasser Abul

Gender: Male

Further information on UA: 184/11 Index: MDE 17/004/2011 Issue Date: 28 September 2011

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