

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE RESUMES CONTACT WITH HIS FAMILY

Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui, a Lebanese national serving a 15-year prison sentence in the United Arab Emirates on terrorism-related charges, has been allowed to resume contact with his family and has now been calling them twice a week. He had been in incommunicado detention for several months, intermittently, from 11 April 2019.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui is serving a 15-year prison sentence in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on “terrorism” related charges. On 11 April 2019, he was held incommunicado following a TV interview his sister and his legal consultant gave in Lebanon, in which they spoke about his case and the details of his torture. For several months, he was not allowed calls with his family or contact with the outside world.

Communication between Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui and his family has now resumed. In June 2021, his sister confirmed to Amnesty International that he is now allowed to contact the family twice a week from al-Wathba Prison in Abu Dhabi, where he is being held, for about one or two minutes each time. She also expressed her gratitude to Amnesty International for supporting her brother.

On 13 October 2014, plain clothed State Security Personnel arbitrarily arrested Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui at his home in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. He was kept in solitary confinement for the following nine months and forced to sign “confessions” extracted under torture. He sustained several injuries including sight loss in one eye, broken nose and fingers, a tearing in the rectum and a lump in the neck as a result of his torture. On 31 October 2016, the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment on charges of “communicating with Hezbollah”, a political party and armed group based in Lebanon, “with the aim of harming the military and political status of the United Arab Emirates and its national interests; disclosing classified defense secrets to Hezbollah and establishing an international organization inside the United Arab Emirates without obtaining authorization from the Government.”

Amnesty International continues to call on the UAE to quash Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui’s unreliable conviction and to release him unless there is evidence of a recognizable criminal offence in line with international law and standards, and to launch an independent and impartial investigation into the claims of torture. The organization will continue to monitor his situation, will respond to any developments as appropriate and will explore further means of action.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ahmad Ali Mekkaoui (He/His/Him)

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 75/19

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/0445/2019/en/>

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