

URGENT ACTION

QATARI DOCTOR TORTURED AND DETAINED 248 DAYS

Qatari medical doctor, Mahmood al-Jaidah, was arrested by plain clothes United Arab Emirates (UAE) security officials while in transit at Dubai International Airport on 26 February 2013. Held in solitary confinement for 210 days, he told his family in sporadic visits that he had been subjected to beatings, sleep deprivation and forced to ingest unidentified liquid. Denied routine access to a lawyer, he is due for trial on 4 November.

Father of eight children, **Dr Mahmood al-Jaidah** continues to be held in an unknown place by the UAE's State Security, or Amn al-Dawla. It is believed that he is accused of providing 100,000 UAE Dirham (US\$27,225) to members of the now-banned al-Islah (the Reform and Social Guidance Association), formerly a UAE-based organization loosely modelled on Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. It remains unclear whether he has been charged and what the exact charges contemplated or brought against him are.

He was not permitted to contact his family for 11 days after arrest, during which time he was not allowed to contact the Qatar embassy for consular assistance. In April, Qatari lawyers and members of his family sought to meet him after the Qatar ambassador facilitated a meeting. The lawyers from Qatar were not permitted to meet with him.

In April 2013 Amnesty International wrote to the UAE authorities seeking information about Mahmood al-Jaidah and expressing concern over his fate but, has not received an a response. Since April 2013, members of his family have been able to visit him at least once a month. During these visits he told them of the verbal abuse and torture and other ill-treatment he said he faced. It is believed that he will stand trial with several UAE nationals on 4 November. Since his arrest, Dr Mahmood al-Jaidah's due process rights, including the right to a lawyer of one's own choosing and his right to challenge the lawfulness of his detention, have been flouted.

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

- Urging the UAE authorities to charge Mahmood al-Jaidah with an internationally recognizable offence or to release him. If he is tried, he must be granted a fair trial, including the right to be assisted by a lawyer of his own choosing and the right to an appeal. Any statement tainted with torture allegations should not be used as evidence in legal proceedings;
- Calling on them to immediately and impartially investigate allegations of torture and bring to justice anyone found responsible in accordance with international fair trial standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Vice-President and Prime Minister

Shaikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum

Office of the Prime Minister
POB 2838, Dubai, UAE

Fax: +971 4 3531974

Email via website:

<http://uaepm.ae/English/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>

[s.aspx](http://uaepm.ae/English/Pages/ContactUs.aspx)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Lt-General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al-Nahyan

Human Rights Directorate
POB 398

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Fax: +971 4 3981119

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice

Dr Hadeef bin Jua'an Al Dhaheri

Ministry of Justice

Al Khubirah, Sector 93, Street 5

POB 260, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

QATARI DOCTOR TORTURED AND DETAINED 248 DAYS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All the visits Dr Mahmood al-Jaidah was permitted took place in the presence of Amn al-Dawla officials, in a government building in Abu Dhabi. Unconfirmed information suggests that Mahmood al-Jaidah will be tried with UAE nationals, Taher al-Tamimi, Saeed al-Buraimi and Waleed al-Badi. All are held in secret detention.

The UAE's Amn al-Dawla has spearheaded a security crackdown since 2011, targeting mainly groups and individuals identified as being linked to al-Islah, a group that has engaged in peaceful political debate in the UAE since its establishment in 1974. It advocates greater adherence to Islamic precepts and is not known to have used or advocated the use of violence.

The crackdown followed the March 2011 publication of a petition addressed to the president, calling for, amongst other things, free elections. In April 2011, four NGOs, including the UAE's Jurists' Association were forcibly closed for voicing similar demands.

In the same month five individuals, the 'UAE 5', linked to an online discussion forum called *al-Hiwar* were detained and faced an unfair trial in November 2011. The day after being convicted to prison terms, the men were pardoned by the president. The United Nations human rights body, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) found that one of those tried – the only case they examined – was held arbitrarily because of his peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression'. The WGAD called on the UAE government to release and compensate the man, but this call was not heeded.

In 2012, in the course of several waves of arrests, the crackdown continued. The authorities detained and charged around 90 men in connection with their alleged links to al-Islah. In July 2012 the authorities announced that a 'foreign-based' group was threatening state security and over 50 were arrests followed, including of lawyers Dr Mohammad al-Roken and Dr Mohammad al-Mansoori. Many were held for long periods in solitary confinement at undisclosed locations, just as many of them reported being tortured or otherwise ill-treated in custody or denied legal assistance.

In November 2012, the government enacted a law on cybercrime, which paved the way for the prosecution and imprisonment of those who use the internet to criticise government figures.

In March 2013, a mass trial of those arrested in 2012 took place behind closed doors. Independent observers were not permitted to observe the trial. A total of 69 were convicted on charges including association with a group aiming to overthrow the country's political system. In July and August 2013, 18 of those convicted undertook a hunger strike to protest against alleged ill-treatment by Al-Razeen Prison authorities. They complained of beatings by prison guards and restrictions placed on family visits. They also complained of light deprivation and say that prison authorities turn off air conditioning in high temperatures. Three prisoners collapsed between 21 August and 28 August, but all are believed to have stopped their action at the time of writing.

Name: Mahmood al-Jaidah
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 301/13 Index: MDE 25/010/2013 Issue Date: 1 November 2013