

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST'S WIFE RELEASED

Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi, wife of activist Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi, has been released by the state security in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She was arrested on 10 January at a checkpoint on the border with Oman and detained for five days with no access to her family or lawyer.

Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi has been released. She was arrested on 10 January at a checkpoint on the border with Oman, and taken into secret detention. The state security officers presented no arrest warrant and confiscated her mobile phone and both her and her infant son's passports. She was held incommunicado and interrogated for up to eight hours a day about her husband's activism. She was taken to the State Security Prosecutor on 14 January and interrogated again before being released. She was not told whether she had been charged.

Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi and her five children had been stopped in 2012 from boarding a flight out of Abu Dhabi International Airport and been told they were on a list of people banned from travelling outside the UAE.

This was the first time the UAE authorities had not only barred prisoners' families from leaving the country, but also arrested someone attempting to leave the country.

Amnesty International believes that the arrest and detention of Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi were intended simply to harass and intimidate her and her family, and silence Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi, who has been outspoken about the human rights violations in the UAE.

Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi, a former Public Prosecutor and head of the Jurists Association in the UAE, was convicted in absentia on 2 July 2013 of vague national security-related charges by the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi, after a grossly unfair trial of 94 people, including several prisoners of conscience, human rights lawyers, judges, university professors and student leaders. The mass trial breached international fair trial standards.

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

This is the first update of UA 8/14 Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE25/003/2014/en>

Name: Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA 8/14 Index: MDE 25/004/2014 Issue date: 22 January 2014

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