

URGENT ACTION

OMANI ACTIVIST RELEASED

Detained Omani activist Sultan al-Saadi was released without charge on 20 August. He had been ill-treated in detention, and not allowed access to his lawyer or family.

Omani activist **Sultan al-Saadi** was released without charge on 20 August. He had spent 23 days in solitary confinement in an undisclosed location. He was apparently interrogated about the Twitter account “Ahrar Oman”, and the activism of previously detained Omani activists. During his detention he was only allowed to see his lawyer once, and on condition that the lawyer would convince him to confess to being behind the Twitter account. His family were not allowed to visit him even after repeated requests to the General Prosecutor’s office, which claimed it had no information on Sultan al-Saadi or where he was being held.

Sultan al-Saadi had been detained on 29 July, when 14 armed men, 12 of them in civilian clothes, seized him on his way to the northern city of Sohar, with his wife and two children. They did not explain who they were or why they were arresting him; they blindfolded him and took him to his house, where they took his laptop and other personal items.

Sultan al-Saadi was neither charged nor told the reasons for his arrest. He was held in solitary confinement and denied access to his lawyer and family. He was ill-treated in numerous ways, including being forced to wear a black bag over his head whenever he was taken out of his cell, even during his infrequent visits to the toilet; he was also told falsely that his family had forsaken him and were asking for him to be imprisoned.

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

This is the first update of UA 209/13. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE20/004/2013/en

Name: Sultan al-Saadi
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 209/13 Index: MDE 20/005/2013 Issue Date: 23 August 2013

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