

URGENT ACTION

SON OF DETAINED MAN ABDUCTED OUTSIDE COURT

Qatari national Abdulrahman al-Jaidah was beaten and abducted by unidentified men on 23 December outside the Federal Supreme Court of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where his father is on trial in a case marred by torture allegations. Abdulrahman al-Jaidah's whereabouts are unknown and he may be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Abdulrahman al-Jaidah, 25, was attending a session of his father's trial in the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi, which started on 4 November 2013, when he was told to go outside by a member of the UAE's State Security apparatus, where he was threatened with arrest. Eyewitnesses say that they saw Abdulrahman al-Jaidah shout "help me, help me" and that he was beaten by State Security officers, who repeatedly hit his head against a wall. He was then taken away and his whereabouts are now unknown; he may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Amnesty International believes that Abdulrahman al-Jaidah may have been attacked and arrested because he has been publicly campaigning on his father's case, drawing attention to his father's prolonged detention without charge and alleged torture. The campaigning has included a video interview with him posted on YouTube on 14 November.

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

- Urging the UAE authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Abdulrahman al-Jaidah and grant him access to his family, lawyer and a doctor;
- Urging them to release Abdulrahman al-Jaidah immediately and unconditionally if he has been arrested solely for peacefully advocating on behalf of his father;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 04 FEBRUARY 2014 TO:

President

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
Corniche Road
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 280
United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 622 2228
Email: ihtimam@mopa.ae
Salutation: Your Highness

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince Court Bainunah Street
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 124
United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 668 6622
Twitter: @MBZNews
Salutation: Your Highness

And copies to:

Vice-President and Prime Minister
Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum
Office of the Prime Minister
Dubai, P.O. Box 2838
United Arab Emirates
Fax: + 971 4 3531974
Email: info@primeminister
Twitter: @HHSkMohd

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abdulrahman al-Jaidah's father, Qatari medical doctor Mahmoud (previously spelt Mahmood) al-Jaidah, was arrested by plain clothes 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 torture including beatings, sleep deprivation, being subjected to bright light all day and night, and being forced to ingest an unidentified liquid. He spent almost nine months in prison before being charged with a crime and was denied access to a lawyer until the start of his trial. He has been on trial since 4 November.

Mahmoud al-Jaidah is accused of providing 100,000 UAE dirhams (US\$27,225) to members of al-Islah (the Reform and Social Guidance Association), a UAE-based association legally established in 1974 which has centres throughout the UAE, where it has been engaged in peaceful social and political debate.

He was not permitted to contact his family for 11 days after arrest, during which time he was not allowed to contact the UAE embassy for consular assistance. In April, Qatari lawyers and members of his family sought to meet him after the Qatari 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 Mahmoud 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 torture and other ill-treatment to which he said he had been subjected.

Mahmoud al-Jaidah was also the subject of an Urgent Action, please see here for details:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE25/010/2013/en>

Name: Abdulrahman al-Jaidah and Mahmoud al-Jaidah

Gender m/f: both m

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