

URGENT ACTION

TWO BIDUN ACTIVISTS REARRESTED AFTER DEMOS

Kuwaiti Bidun activists 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli and 'Abdullah 'Atallah were arrested again on 7 July after demonstrations in Kuwait. They may be prisoners of conscience.

Kuwaiti Bidun activists 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli and 'Abdullah 'Atallah were arrested again on 7 July and are now held in the Central Prison in Kuwait City.

'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli was arrested at a checkpoint in front of the Central Prison in Kuwait City as he was monitoring protests calling for the release of Musallam al-Barrak who had been arrested on 2 July on a charge of "insulting the judiciary". On learning who he was, a high-ranking officer insulted, beat and arrested him. 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli was left with a perforated left eardrum and a wound to his right earlobe. On 8 July the Public Prosecution ordered him, in the presence of his lawyer, to be detained for 10 days pending investigation and charged him with "insulting a security force officer". His case was referred to a Misdemeanours Court. On 13 July 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli filed a complaint against the officer who assaulted him.

'Abdullah 'Atallah was arrested during a raid by at least 20 armed policemen as the family were preparing to break their Ramadan fasting in the evening. No warrant for his arrest was shown to him or his family. He was taken to the Criminal Investigation Department where he was interrogated with his lawyer present, and charged with "illegal gathering, disobeying police officers' orders to disperse and inciting to gathering".

'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli had been arrested on 24 February and charged with offences including "damaging police patrol cars", "assaulting security officers" and "inciting rebellion". He was released on 8 April. 'Abdullah 'Atallah had been arrested on 19 February and charged with "insulting the Amir", "illegal gathering" and "damaging police property (car)". He was released on 15 June on bail of 500 Kuwaiti Dinars (approx. US\$1,800) and his next court hearing has been set for 14 September.

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

- Calling on the authorities to release 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli and 'Abdullah 'Atallah immediately and unconditionally, if they are held solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association;
- Calling on them to order an impartial and independent investigation into the reported police torture of 'Abdulhakim al-Fadhli and bring those responsible to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 AUGUST 2014 TO:

Amir of the State of Kuwait

His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al Sabah
Al Diwan Al Amiri, P.O.Box: 1 - Safat –
13001, State of Kuwait
Fax: +965 22430559
Email: amirsoffice@da.gov.kw

Salutation: Your Highness

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Dr. Nayef Mohammed Al-Ajmi
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 6, al-Safat 1300, Kuwait
Email: info@moj.gov.kw

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Chairperson

Parliamentary Human Rights Committee
National Assembly
P.O. Box 716, al-Safat 13008, Kuwait
Fax: +965 22436331
Email: ipu-grp@kna.kw (In subject line:
FAO Chairperson of the Parliamentary
Human Rights Committee)

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. This is the third update of UA 47/14. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE17/003/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A former member of the Kuwaiti parliament, Musallam al-Barrak, gave a speech outside the parliament building on 16 June in which he denounced corruption in Kuwait and the role of the Supreme Judicial Council. He was arrested on 2 July and the Public Prosecution ordered his detention for 10 days pending investigation over allegations of “insulting the judiciary”. A wave of largely peaceful protests began the same day following his arrest calling for his release, for financial and political transparency and political reforms. The security forces met the protests, which took place between 2 and 9 July, with tear gas and other crowd dispersal devices such as “flashbangs” and “sound bombs”. Around 50 protestors including several human rights activists were arrested and later released. Musallam al-Barrak was released on bail on 7 July but demonstrations continued, demanding the release of all those detained in July.

Name: ‘Abdullah ‘Atallah, ‘Abdulhakim al-Fadhli
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 47/14 Index: MDE 17/005/2014 Issue Date: 15 July 2014