

URGENT ACTION

WIFE OF ACTIVIST MISSING AFTER ARREST

The wife of activist Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi, one of the men unfairly tried in the “UAE 94” mass trial, was arrested at a checkpoint along the border with Oman in the morning of 10 January in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Her whereabouts are unknown and she could be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi, 38, was stopped at a checkpoint near the UAE border as she was travelling with her father and her infant son as they tried to cross into neighbouring Oman. They had meant to travel from there to the United Kingdom to visit her husband, Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi. Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi managed to send a message to Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi's mobile telephone to say they had been stopped before her mobile telephone and her father's telephone were confiscated. Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi was then arrested and taken away by state security officers, leaving her father and her son, who is less than two years old, behind. This is the first time that, in addition to barring prisoners' families from leaving the country, the UAE authorities have arrested someone who has attempted to leave.

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

Mohamed Saqer al-Zaabi has told Amnesty International that his wife's whereabouts are still unknown. Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi is not an activist and he believes that she has been arrested and taken to an unknown location simply to harass and intimidate him and his family.

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

- Urging the UAE authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi, release her immediately if she has been arrested solely for her familial relationship with her husband, and urging them to ensure that she is protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to lift the travel ban on Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi and her five children, and reminding them that the harassment and arrest of family members of prisoners, solely in order to stop them from speaking out publicly, violates international human rights law.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 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 4 353 1974
Email: info@primeminister.ae
Twitter: @HHShkMohd

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Some relatives of the 69 government critics, who were jailed after the mass “UAE 94 trial” in July 2013 told Amnesty International when it visited the UAE in November 2013 that they have been bullied, threatened and stigmatized by the authorities in a bid to silence their pleas for justice.

During a visit to the UAE from 18 to 23 November 2013, Amnesty International documented a number of cases in which family members of prisoners who were convicted in the “UAE 94” trial had been subjected to various forms of harassment. The organization was told that many other families were experiencing similar treatment.

Family members have been threatened by State Security officials, as well as prevented from travel and been refused security clearance for jobs, according to Amnesty International’s research.

Several family members have received threatening tweets, either from named individuals believed to work for or to be connected with state security or from anonymous Twitter accounts.

Prisoners’ families have been vilified by the largely pro-government national media and in a documentary produced by an organization believed to have close links with the authorities about the “UAE 94”, which was first shown at a screening on 21 November in Dubai and ignores human rights concerns about their trial.

Family members have been turned away at the airport from flights leaving the UAE without explanation since their relatives were arrested. No reason is given in any of these cases.

Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi and her five children, including her 18-month old son, are all on the list of individuals who are barred from leaving the country. They previously tried to board flights from Abu Dhabi airport but were told they were barred from travel. No explanation was given as to the reason for their travel ban.

Name: Aisha Ibrahim al-Zaabi
Gender m/f: Female

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