

URGENT ACTION

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF QATARI NATIONALS

Officials from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) detained two Qatari men on 27 June at the al-Ghuwaifat border post on the UAE's western border with Saudi Arabia. The UAE has subjected them to enforced disappearance, since they have withheld information about the men's fate from their families. Both men are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah, 30, and **Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi**, 33, left the Qatari capital, Doha, on 27 June. Travelling alone, each drove his own car through southern Qatar and transited via Saudi Arabia to arrive at the UAE's western border. Eye witnesses at the border crossing told the Qatari authorities that UAE officials had detained them at the al-Ghuwaifat border post. It is not known why the men were arrested, since each of them had previously visited the UAE many times without incident. Since their arrest, the men have not contacted their families and the families have been unable to contact them.

The men's families submitted a complaint to Qatar's consular department, which reportedly made enquiries, but without success. Members of the men's families have recently turned to the international community to try to find out what has happened to them.

The UN Commission on Human Rights has stated that "prolonged incommunicado detention may facilitate the perpetration of torture and can in itself constitute a form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" or even torture.

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

- Urging the authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah and Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi to their families and explain the legal basis for detaining them;
- Calling on them to publicly guarantee that both men will be protected from torture and other ill-treatment and ensure that they are given prompt access to lawyers of their choice, and any medical attention they may require;
- Urging them to ensure that the men are promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence or else released.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 NOVEMBER 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: 011 971 2 622 2228
Email: ihitimam@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: 011 971 2 668 6622
Twitter: @MBZNews
Salutation: Your Highness

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to Shaikh Zayed Mosque
Abu Dhabi POB: 398
Fax: 011 971 2 441 4938 / 011 971 2 402 2762 / 011 971 2 441 5780
Email: moi@moi.gov.ae
Twitter: @SaifBZay

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
3522 International Court NW Suite #400, Washington DC 20008
Fax: 1 202 243 2432 | Phone: 1 202 243 2400 | Email: info@uaeembassy-usa.org

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact. Send a short email to uan@aiusa.org with "UA 256/14" in the subject line and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Network Office if sending appeals after the above date.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Despite certain safeguards in the UAE Constitution and laws, the rights of detainees upon arrest are routinely disregarded, especially in cases where the State Security Agency (SSA) is involved. Amnesty International has recorded other instances of foreign nationals being arrested and held incommunicado for weeks or months during pre-trial detention. Such arrests are typically carried out by the SSA, which deals with national security cases.

SSA officials generally arrest people without warrants, then take them to unofficial secret detention facilities where they are kept for weeks or months without charge or access to legal representation. Detainees are often tortured or otherwise ill-treated. In cases taken up by Amnesty International, for months officials ignore families' attempts to find out where detainees are held.

Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah works at Qatar's Ministry of Interior. He is married but has no children. Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi is married and has one four-year-old daughter. He works in Qatar's Security Department. Members of both men's families are said to be deeply concerned about what has happened to them, and fear that they may be facing torture or other ill treatment.

The parents of each man have said that they have routinely and regularly visited the UAE since their childhood and that they have never before had any encounter with the police or national security services.

Name: Yousif Abdulsamad Abdulghani al-Mullah (m), Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi (m)
Issues: Enforced disappearance, Incommunicado detention, Risk of torture/ill-treatment

UA: 256/14

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