

URGENT ACTION

FORMER MP SALEH AL-MULLA ACQUITTED

Former Kuwaiti opposition MP Saleh al-Mulla was acquitted by the Appeal Court on 9 March of “insulting the Amir of Kuwait and the President of Egypt” on his Twitter account.

Saleh al-Mulla, appeared before the Appeal Court in Kuwait City on 9 March and was acquitted of “insulting the Amir”, “questioning the authority of the Amir”, “carrying out a hostile act against a brotherly state through insulting its president that could lead to the severing of the ties between the countries” and “misusing social media (via Twitter)”. He had been free on bail since 11 January.

He had been summoned to the Public Prosecution offices for interrogation on 6 January 2015, a few days after he criticized, on his Twitter account, an official visit to Kuwait by Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. He also addressed the Amir of Kuwait, asking him not to grant the Egyptian government any more of the Kuwaiti people’s money. The Public Prosecution decided to detain him for further interrogation until the next day, when it ordered him to be detained for 10 days, for further investigation. His legal team appealed against this the following day. His trial began on 11 January before the Criminal Court, who ordered his release from Kuwait’s Central Prison on bail of 2000 Kuwaiti Dinars (about US\$6,800). The Criminal Court acquitted him on 1 November 2015, but the Prosecution appealed.

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

This is the second update of UA 4/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde17/002/2015/en/>

Name: Saleh al-Mulla
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 4/15 Index: MDE 17/3705/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

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