

# URGENT ACTION

## ONE SIBLING ACQUITTED, THREE ARE STILL MISSING

**On 30 May the Federal Supreme Court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) acquitted Moza 'Abdouli of insulting the UAE, its leaders, and its institutions in tweets she posted in March 2013. Her three siblings remain detained in an undisclosed location.**

On 30 May the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in the UAE acquitted **Moza 'Abdouli**, aged 18. Her three siblings **Amina 'Abdouli**, **Mos'ab 'Abdouli** and **Waleed 'Abdouli** have not to date appeared in court and remain detained in an undisclosed location.

On 4 April Moza 'Abdouli, appeared before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court and was officially charged with insulting the UAE, its leaders, and its institutions in tweets she posted in March 2013 following her father's death on 3 March 2013 in Syria. In her tweets, Moza 'Abdouli, aged 15 at the time, mourned the loss of her father. Two other trial sessions took place on 2 and 16 May 2016. During her trial she has stated that nothing she posted was intended to discredit any person, government or institution. She should not have been brought before an adult court as her alleged offences took place when she was under the age of 18.

Moza 'Abdouli had been held in an undisclosed location since her arrest on 19 November 2015 until her first appearance in court. She was taken from her home in the village of al-Tayba in the north eastern Emirate of Fujairah, along with her sister Amina 'Abdouli and her brother Mos'ab 'Abdouli, by plain clothed State Security members who did not show warrants and who searched the house before detaining them. On 29 November Amina and Moza 'Abdouli were allowed to phone their family but not to reveal their whereabouts. The same day, another brother, Waleed 'Abdouli, was arrested by State Security members. Two days earlier he had made a speech during Friday prayers in which he criticised the detention of his three siblings.

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

- Calling on the UAE authorities to end Amina, Waleed and Mos'ab 'Abdouli's secret detention and publish their whereabouts;
- Calling on them to ensure that the three siblings are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to a lawyer, their family and any medical attention they may require;
- Calling on them to release the siblings unless they are charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence, in which case they should have a fair trial.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JULY 2016 TO:

Vice-President and Prime Minister  
 HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin  
 Rashid al-Maktoum  
 Prime Minister's Office  
 PO Box: 212000  
 Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 Fax: +971 4 330 4044  
 Email: [info@primeminister.ae](mailto:info@primeminister.ae)  
 Twitter: @HHShkMoh  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

Minister of Interior  
 Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
 Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near  
 to Shaikh Zayed Mosque  
 POB: 398, Abu Dhabi  
 United Arab Emirates  
 Fax: +971 2 402 2762/ +971 2 441 5780  
 Email: [moi@moi.gov.ae](mailto:moi@moi.gov.ae)  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

**And copies to:**  
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi  
 HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al  
 Nahyan  
 Crown Prince Court  
 King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz  
 Al Saud Street, P.O. Box: 124  
 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
 Fax: +971 2 668 6622  
 Twitter: @MBZNews

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

MR ABDULRAHMAN GHANEM ALMUTAIWEE CVO, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, 30 Prince's Gate, London, SW7 1PT  
 Fax 020 7581 1281 Email [pressuk@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:pressuk@mofa.gov.ae) Salutation YOUR EXCELLENCY

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 125/16. Further information:  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/4092/2016/en>

**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Waleed 'Abdouli (34), teacher Amina 'Abdouli (33), former high school student Moza 'Abdouli (18), and their brother Mos'ab 'Abdouli (25) are the children of Mohammed Ahmed 'Abdouli who was the head of the banned Emirati Umma Party and a former Colonel of the UAE army. He was arrested in 2005 and detained for about two years without trial. He later travelled to Syria where he was the military adviser to the commander of operations of the non-state armed group, Ahrar al-Sham, and was killed in March 2013 in the town of al-Raqqa.

Since 2011, the UAE authorities have mounted an unprecedented crackdown on freedom of expression and association in the country. The space for dissent has shrunk and many people, both Emiratis and non-Emiratis, who have criticised the UAE government, its policies, and the human rights situation in the country have been harassed, arrested, tortured, or subjected to unfair trial and imprisonment. The authorities have arrested, detained, and prosecuted more than 100 activists and critics of the government, including prominent lawyers, judges, and academics, on broad and sweeping national security-related or cybercrimes charges in proceedings that fail to meet international fair trial standards.

Detainees held incommunicado or in undisclosed places of detention are at heightened risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Such deprivation of liberty by state authorities who conceal an individual's whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law, is enforced disappearance, which is a crime under international law.

1<sup>st</sup> update on UA: 125/16 Index: MDE 25/4166/2016 Issue Date: 2 June 2016