

# URGENT ACTION

## FOUR LIBYAN MEN ACQUITTED AND RELEASED

**Four Libyan men, three of them with dual nationality, were acquitted on 30 May by the Federal Supreme Court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of providing support to “terrorist” groups. They were released the next day. The fate of three others remains unknown.**

On 30 May the State Security Chamber in the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi acquitted US-Libyan **Kamal Eldarat** and his son **Mohammed Eldarat**, Canadian-Libyan **Salim el-Aradi** and Libyan **‘Issa al-Manna’** of all charges. They were released from al-Wathba prison in Abu Dhabi late at night on 31 May.

Kamal Eldarat, Mohammed Eldarat and Salim el-Aradi were among 10 Libyan men arrested in August and September 2014. Not told why they were being arrested, they were taken to an unknown location and held for months without contact with the outside world. Four of the 10 men were released in late 2014. The fate and whereabouts of Mohammed al-Fighi, al-Sadiq al-Kikli and Mahmoud bin Gharbiya, who were arrested with them, remains unknown. ‘Issa al-Manna’ was arrested in mid-March 2015 and subjected to enforced disappearance.

Kamal Eldarat was summoned for questioning at Dubai’s Bur Dubai police station on 26 August 2014, after which about 20 officers in six police vehicles returned him to his house, which they searched, and then detained him. His son Mohammed Eldarat was detained the following day.

Salim el-Aradi was arrested on 29 August 2014, at a hotel, by police officers who gave no reason for arresting him. His brother Mohammed el-Aradi had been summoned to a police station the previous day: police questioned him for several hours and then took him back to his house, which they searched and then detained him. The two brothers had lived in the UAE for around 20 years. Mohammed el-Aradi and three other Libyan men were released without charge on 27 December 2014 and deported to Turkey. They had been held in unknown locations with no access to their families or legal assistance. Amnesty International has received reports that the men were tortured and otherwise ill-treated (see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/08/uae-foreign-national-tortured-in-custody-and-detained-without-charge-for-a-year/>).

The trial of Kamal Eldarat, Mohammed Eldarat, Salim el-Aradi and ‘Issa al-Manna’ began on 18 January 2016 when they were told for the first time that they had been charged with providing financial and material support to two armed groups in Libya under the UAE’s 2004 Anti-Terrorism law. They denied the charges. On 21 March the Prosecutor replaced these charges with new charges from the Penal Code and a forensic report rejected claims that the defendants had ever been tortured or bore marks of torture.

On 24 December 2015 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention described the detention of Kamal Eldarat, Mohammed Eldarat and Salim al-Aradi, as well as two other Libyan men who were tried and acquitted separately in March 2016, as arbitrary.

**No further action is requested from the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the cases of the three remaining men.**

This is the fourth update of UA 236/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/3696/2016/en/>

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