

URGENT ACTION

TRIED FOR TWEETS, HER SIBLINGS DISAPPEARED

Moza 'Abdouli is due to be sentenced on 30 May by the Federal Supreme Court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She is charged with insulting the UAE, its leaders, and its institutions for tweets she posted in March 2013. Her three siblings have not to date appeared in court and remain detained in an undisclosed location.

Moza 'Abdouli, aged 18, is scheduled to appear before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in the UAE on 30 May for the verdict in her case. The charges against her relate to posts on her Twitter account 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. Her last tweet was posted on 7 March 2013. During her trial she has stated that nothing she posted was intended to discredit any person, government or institution.

Moza 'Abdouli appeared in court for the first time in early April 2016 when she was officially charged. Two other trial sessions took place on 2 and 16 May. She should not have been brought before an adult court as her alleged offences took place when she was under the age of 18. She 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. Amina, Mos'ab and Waleed 'Abdouli have not to date appeared in court and remain detained in an undisclosed location.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the UAE authorities to release Moza 'Abdouli immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to disclose the whereabouts of Amina, Waleed and Mos'ab 'Abdouli; clarify the legal basis for their detention and ensure that they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence or else released;
- Calling on them to ensure that while in detention Moza 'Abdouli and her siblings are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and have regular access to their families, lawyers of their choosing and any medical treatment they may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 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
 Twitter: @HHSkMoh
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
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. HIS EXCELLENCY MR ABDULRAHMAN GHANEM
 ALMUTAIWEE CVO, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, 30 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT, 020 7581 1281, email pressuk@mofa.gov.ae

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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.

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