

# CASE STUDY

## DR. MOHAMMED AL-ROKEN

### JAILED FOR SOLELY EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & ASSOCIATION

Dr. Mohammed al-Roken is a professor of constitutional law and a human rights lawyer from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Dr al-Roken was jailed on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, along with 68 others, after being accused of attempting to overthrow the government. In particular, we believe he was condemned by the UAE authorities for his work as a defence lawyer, his advocacy efforts and for raising awareness of human rights issues.

He was a former Amnesty International contact for work on the UAE for over a decade before he was jailed. The UAE authorities are holding Dr al-Roken, without charge, in solitary confinement in a secret detention facility. They have used torture and other ill-treatment to gain confessions as evidence of his guilt. Fundamentally, he has been denied the right to appeal the court's verdict. This is in breach of the UAE's obligations under international human rights law.



© Private

### PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Amnesty International considers Dr al-Roken to be a prisoner of conscience. A prisoner of conscience is someone who has neither used nor advocated violence and who has been jailed solely because of their beliefs, origins or status.

## SOLIDARITY ACTION

Send a postcard or letter to Dr Mohammed al-Roken in prison letting him know that you support him and that you have written to the UAE authorities about his case.

Language: English

Suggested message: Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. We admire your courage and hope that you will be released soon.

## GET CREATIVE

You could also write your message on coloured paper and make an origami butterfly or flower. These are symbols of freedom and support for Dr Mohammed al-Roken.



## CAN I:

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?

Please use cards that are respectful in terms of religion. Please do not send religious cards that contain images of animals or alcohol in case it causes offence.

## APPEAL ACTION

Write a letter urging the UAE authorities to release Dr Mohammed al-Roken immediately and unconditionally and to quash his conviction for exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association. Start your letter or card with 'Your Excellency.'



## SEND YOUR ACTION LETTERS AND CARDS TO US AND WE WILL FORWARD THEM ON:

Alice Sims  
Human Rights Education Unit  
Freepost RLUU-XXEY-CTE  
Amnesty International  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA



Don't forget to include your name and the name of your school with your cards and letters (but not on the cards themselves).

*Action sheet written by Sandeep Grewal*