

# URGENT ACTION

## OMANI WRITER RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

**Omani writer, journalist and human rights activist Sulaiman al-Ma'mari was released without charge on 19 May, following 22 days detained in solitary confinement. The Omani authorities have yet to give a reason for Sulaiman al-Ma'mari's arrest.**

**Sulaiman al-Ma'mari**, aged 42, was released without charge on 19 May 2016. Shortly after his release he posted a status on his Facebook page stating that the reason for his detention was in connection to his 22 March Facebook posting calling for the release of Omani writer and human rights defender Abdullah Habib, arrested on 15 April and released without charge on 4 May.

Sulaiman al-Ma'mari was held in solitary confinement throughout his detention and he described it as a "tough" experience. He also said that he was not subject to any other form of ill-treatment. He was extensively interrogated about all aspects of his life and his writings. He did not have access to a lawyer but was allowed to make three phone calls to his mother on the fourth, eleventh and twenty first days of his detention.

On 28 April Sulaiman al-Ma'mari was summoned to report immediately to the police Special Section (al-Qism al-Khas) in the Qurum area of the capital, Muscat and was then arrested by the Omani Internal Security Service (ISS). He was held in solitary confinement until his release on 19 May.

Oman imposes arbitrary restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and in recent years many peaceful activists, government critics and others have been arrested and detained, often on public order charges or under vaguely worded penal code provisions. Those detained are often held for several days or weeks before being released. Sulaiman al-Ma'mari and Abdullah Habib's cases are examples of the pattern of intimidation by Omani authorities, including the ISS, of people who are simply exercising their right to freedom of expression.

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

This is the first update of UA 107/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde20/3992/2016/en/>

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