

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 22/002/2005

18 August 2005

Further Information on UA 63/05 (MDE 22/001/2205, 15 March 2005) Fear for Safety

QATAR **Hamda Fahad Jassem Al-Thani (f)**

Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani is still being forcibly confined at her family's home in the capital Doha, despite assurances from the Qatari authorities that they were working to resolve her case swiftly. Amnesty International remains concerned for her safety.

Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani, a member of Qatar's ruling family, has been held at her family's home since November 2003, reportedly as a result of her father's disapproval of her choice of husband. Amnesty International received a letter concerning the case from the Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs dated 17 May 2005. According to the letter, the authorities have ordered an investigation into the case in order "to resolve it as early as possible". However, three months after the letter was received, Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani remains forcibly detained in one room, and is not permitted access to lawyers, doctors or visitors of any kind. Her family have reportedly beaten her on several occasions.

Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani married Sayed Mohammed Sayed Saleh, an Egyptian national, in Egypt on 5 November 2002. Nine days later, she was allegedly drugged and abducted by members of the Qatari security forces, who took her back to Qatar. According to reports, she was detained in secret in the al-Selyea area of Doha for five months until April 2003, and then transferred to the offices of the state's Special Security Directorate in Doha, where she was detained until November 2003. The security forces reportedly then handed her over to the custody of her family, who have held her against her will at their home since then.

Amnesty International brought Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani's case to the attention of the Qatari authorities on 3 September 2004, and on 22 February 2005 wrote to the Amir of Qatar, the State's ruler and a cousin of Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani, expressing grave concern at her continued confinement. The response dated 17 May 2005 was the first official response the organization has received from the Qatari authorities concerning Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani, who is still being forcibly confined at her family's home in Doha against her will;
- calling on the authorities to give details of the investigation into her confinement, and to give assurances that it will be impartial and independent;
- noting that the letter received by Amnesty International dated 17 May 2005 stated that the authorities wished to resolve the case "as early as possible", but that Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani has not been freed;
- calling for the authorities to take immediate steps to intervene to end Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani's forcible confinement and ill-treatment by her family, and to ensure her future safety;
- calling for Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani to be granted the right to seek justice and challenge her forcible confinement through the Qatari legal system;
- urging the authorities, in compliance with their obligations as a UN member state, to protect, and enable Hamda Fahad Jassem Ali Al-Thani to exercise, her right to liberty and security of person and her right not to be subjected to arbitrary detention.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar
PO Box 923
Doha, Qatar

Fax: + 974 436 12 12 (It may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Highness

His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Prime Minister and Minister of Interior
PO Box 115
Doha, Qatar

Fax: + 974 432 7734/ 432 3339 (It may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Highness

COPIES TO:

His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr al-Thani
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 250
Doha, Qatar

Fax: + 974 438 3745/ 429 454 (It may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

His Excellency Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanem
Minister of Justice
PO Box 917
Doha, Qatar

Fax: + 974 483 28 68

and to diplomatic representatives of Qatar accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 September 2005.